



# the X-MEN



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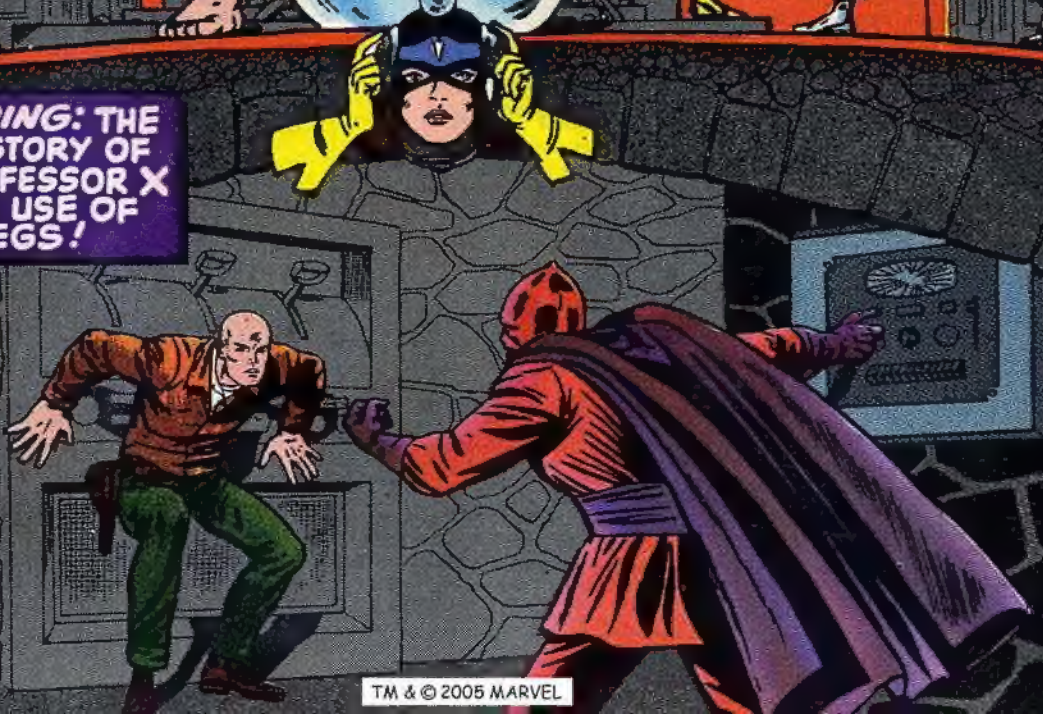
IND.  
20  
MAY

12¢

OUR TITLE IS SIMPLY  
**"I, LUCIFER!"**  
'NUFF SAID!



**FEATURING: THE  
UNTOLD STORY OF  
HOW PROFESSOR X  
LOST THE USE OF  
HIS LEGS!**





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AWAIT YOU  
WHEN YOU SEE  
7 AMAZING  
PLANT CREATURES  
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TO  
LIFE!**



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**X-MEN! THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!**

# DO I, LUCIFER

A BANK ROBBERY ITSELF IS A SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL EVENT! BUT WHEN THE PERNICIOUS PERPETRATORS ARE ATTIRED IN THE GARB OF X-MEN, THE RESULTING TABLEAU MIGHT BE CONSIDERED POSITIVELY **UNIQUE**....!

ALRIGHT, ALL OF YOU! STAND BACK! I CAN DO MORE DAMAGE WITH THIS **BASEBALL BAT** THAN A **HOMO SAPIEN** CAN WITH A **SHERMAN TANK**!

YOU'RE THE BIG **RAZZAMATAZZ** OF THIS JOINT, AINT YOU? WELL, YOU GOT EXACTLY **TEN SECONDS** TO OPEN THIS VAULT--OR ELSE US X-MEN'LL PULL IT DOWN AROUND YOUR EARS!

BUT--I COULDN'T OPEN IT **NOW** EVEN IF I WANTED TO! IT HAS A **TIME LOCK**--AND IT'S SET FOR **TEN O'CLOCK**!

IT'S A **HOLD-UP**! WHY DON'T THE GUARDS DO SOMETHING?

TWO **NEW** X-MEN? I NEVER SAW THEIR PICTURES IN THE PAPER! WHAT POWERS DO THEY HAVE?

THEY CAN'T--THOSE **HOODLUMS** HAVE THREATENED TO HARM **MR. PHILBERT** IF THEY SO MUCH AS **MOVE**!

ANOTHER MIGHTY MARVEL BULLPEN SURPRISE!

EXPERTLY EDITED BY **STAN LEE**

SKILLFULLY SCRIPTED BY **ROY THOMAS**

PERFECTLY PENCILLED BY **JAY GAVIN**

IDEALLY INKED BY **DICK AYERS**

LAXLY LETTERED BY **ARTIE SIMEK**

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I EVER HEARD OF ANYBODY ROBBIN' A BANK WITH A **BAT**!

YEAH--BUT IF ANYBODY CAN PULL IT OFF, THEY CAN!

I DON'T KNOW, LADY--AND I'M NOT GONNA **RUSH 'EM** TO FIND OUT!

DEAR ME! I ALWAYS SAID THOSE **RIDICULOUSLY-COSTUMED** MUTANTS WERE UP TO NO GOOD!





SO--THE VAULT CAN'T BE OPENED TILL TEN, HUH? WELL, HERE'S WHERE I **UPSET** YOUR PRETTY LITTLE SCHEDULE!

ME, I NEVER WAS MUCH GOOD AT WAITIN'!

YOU CAN'T BREAK IN! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE--!



**RREEEKK!**

NOTHIN'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR AN X-MAN, RUBE!

--AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!

**DONG-DONG-DONG-DONG**



HERE, PARTNER! I DID THE HARD WORK--SO YOU CAN CARRY THE LOOT!

BE GLAD TO, PAL! FOR THAT KIND OF MENIAL LABOR, YOU CAN COUNT ME IN!

THE BIG GUY LET GO OF MR. PHILBERT! NOW'S MY CHANCE TO TAKE THEM WITHOUT ENDANGERING ANYBODY!



I'VE NEVER CLAIMED TO KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT THIS **MUTANT** BUSINESS--

**KRAK!**

--BUT I DO KNOW THAT EVEN THE X-MEN AREN'T BULLET-PROOF!



I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GETTIN' YOUR INFO, RUBE, BUT I THINK YOU'D BETTER TAKE ANOTHER LOOK!

**THAK! THAK!**

THE BULLETS SINK RIGHT INTO HIM...! AND THEN THEY POP OUT AGAIN!



THE OTHER ONE DOESN'T LOOK SO INVULNERABLE! WAIT! WHAT GIVES?

HEY, PARTNER--GET THIS JOKER OFF MY BACK, WILL YA?

**PWING PWING**

HE'S SURROUNDED BY SOME KIND OF FORCE FIELD!

**DUCK!**



NO SOONER SAID THAN **DONE!** HERE, BUDDY--THAT LITTLE TOY WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD WITH US ANYHOW!

MY GUN--IT'S **DEMOLISHED!** YOU GUYS AREN'T HUMAN!

**KRUNCH!**

NEVER SAID WE WAS CUDDLES! WE'RE **MUTANTS**, REMEMBER?



MEANWHILE, THE CLANGING BURGLAR ALARM HAS NOT GONE UNHEEDED, FOR...

OKAY, BOYS-- MOVE IN ON 'EM!

USE YOUR CLUBS! FROM WHAT I SAW THRU THE BANK WINDOW, GUNS ARE USELESS!

WE'LL TAKE 'EM, CAPTAIN!

THEY CAN'T LICK ALL OF US!

HOWEVER, AS THE INCREDIBLE IMPOSTERS EMERGE FROM THE BUILDING...

UHNN--! WE CAN'T EVEN LAY OUR HANDS ON HIM!

OOOOFF!

OF COURSE NOT, FOOLS! NOBODY TOUCHES ME UNLESS I ALLOW 'EM TO!

AND, A FEW FEET AWAY...

HE DOESN'T HAVE A FORCE FIELD!

WHO SAYS I NEED ONE? I GOT OTHER WAYS OF HANDLIN' THINGS!

WE'VE GOT THIS ONE, CAPTAIN!

YOU'RE TALKIN' THRU YOUR NAT, MISTER! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH MEN AROUND YOU TO CORRAL AN ELEPHANT!

MAYBE SO, BUT YOU AINT GOT NEARLY ENOUGH TO HOLD ONTO... THE BLOB!

SO THAT'S WHO HE IS! ...NO WONDER!

HE TOSSED US OFF LIKE SO MANY RAG DOLLS!

AN' NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND--

--I'VE GOTTA BE MOVIN' ON! GIVE MY REGRETS TO THE JOE THAT OWNS THIS CAR!

I SEE IT--BUT I JUST PLAIN DON'T BELIEVE IT!

C'MON, CHUM! WE'VE GOTTA GO JOIN THE REST'N THE X-MEN!

THE NEXT MOMENT...

COME BACK HERE! COME BACK, I SAY!

DID YOU SEE THAT? NOT ONLY DID THEY ROB THE BANK--BUT THEY ALSO MADE THEIR GETAWAY IN PHILBERT'S LIMOUSINE!

MISTER, FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, I'D SAY WE'RE LUCKY THEY WERE ONLY AFTER MONEY!

ALL RIGHT, MEN--INTO THE CAR! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE'RE GOING TO CATCH US SOME MUTANTS!

FINE! BUT THEN WHAT DO WE DO WITH 'EM?

3



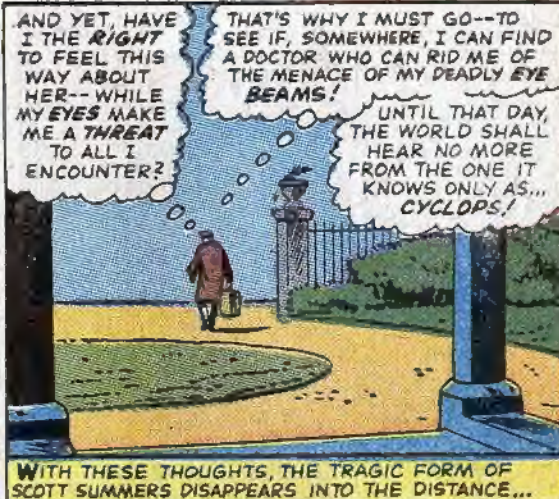
THAT SELFSAME INSTANT, AS A CAPRICIOUS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, ONE OF THE **REAL X-MEN** HAS JUST MADE ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT DECISIONS OF HIS ENTIRE LIFE...



THERE, I'VE DONE IT! UNTIL THIS SECOND, I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT I COULD FIND THE **STRENGTH!**

I'M LEAVING THE **X-MEN**--! THAT NOTE I LEFT WILL EXPLAIN THE REASONS--OR AT LEAST SOME OF THEM!

FOR, HOW CAN MERE **WORDS** EVER HOPE TO EXPRESS ALL THAT I FEEL IN MY HEART FOR **JEAN?**



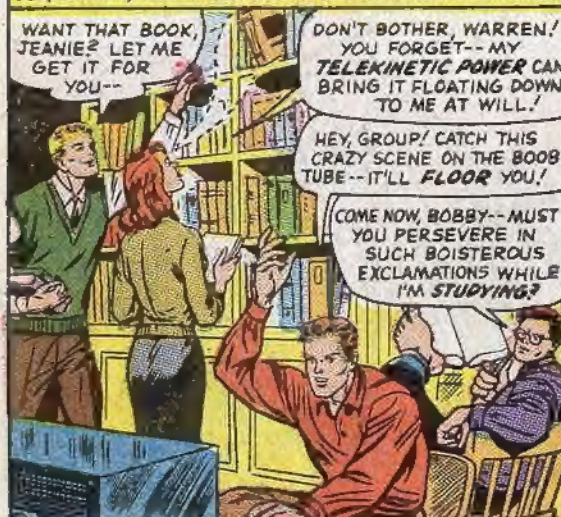
AND YET, HAVE I THE **RIGHT** TO FEEL THIS WAY ABOUT HER-- WHILE MY **EYES** MAKE ME A **THREAT** TO ALL I ENCOUNTER?

THAT'S WHY I MUST GO--TO SEE IF, SOMEWHERE, I CAN FIND A DOCTOR WHO CAN RID ME OF THE MENACE OF MY DEADLY **EYE BEAMS!**

UNTIL THAT DAY, THE WORLD SHALL HEAR NO MORE FROM THE ONE IT KNOWS ONLY AS... **CYCLOPS!**

WITH THESE THOUGHTS, THE TRAGIC FORM OF SCOTT SUMMERS DISAPPEARS INTO THE DISTANCE...

AS, INSIDE, UNAWARE OF HIS UNHERALDED DEPARTURE...



WANT THAT BOOK, JEANIE? LET ME GET IT FOR YOU--

DON'T BOTHER, WARREN! YOU FORGET--MY **TELEKINETIC POWER** CAN BRING IT FLOATING DOWN TO ME AT WILL!

HEY, GROUP! CATCH THIS CRAZY SCENE ON THE BOOB TUBE--IT'LL **FLOOR** YOU!

COME NOW, BOBBY--MUST YOU PERSEVERE IN SUCH BOISTEROUS EXCLAMATIONS WHILE I'M **STUDYING?**



WAIT, HANK! BOBBY'S **RIGHT!** LISTEN TO THIS!

--AND SO, DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF THE AUTHORITIES, THE ROBBERS **ESCAPED!** THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT BOTH WERE MEMBERS OF THE MYSTERIOUS MUTANT GROUP KNOWN AS THE **X-MEN**...

OH YEAH? I DOUBT IT!

QUIET, BOBBY--LET'S MAKE SURE WE DON'T MISS ANY OF THIS!

IT WOULD SEEM MOST IMPERATIVE THAT WE ENLIGHTEN THE PROFESSOR--**POST HASTE!**

PROFESSOR XAVIER--PARDON MY UN CEREMONIOUS INTRUSION, SIR, BUT THE TELEVISION HAS REPORTED A MOST SINGULAR OCCURRENCE--!



I KNOW, WARREN-- I'VE ALREADY MONITORED THAT NEWSCAST **MENTALLY!**

IN FACT, I'VE TELEPATHICALLY COMMANDED THE OTHERS TO **JOIN** US, AS I FINISH THE INSTALLATION OF THIS NEW **CEREBRO**!

\*MAGNETO POLISHED OFF THE OLD ONE IN **X-MEN**\*18, REMEMBER? -- STAN.



AND, SCANT SECONDS LATER...

WE GOT YOUR CALL, PROFESSOR! THEN YOU **KNOW** ABOUT THOSE PHONY **X-MEN**?

**SILENCE**, ALL OF YOU! THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE ON **WORDS!** OBSERVE THE LARGE SCREEN ON THAT WALL!

I'VE NEVER SEEN THE PROF ANY **GRIMMER** THAN HE IS **RIGHT** NOW!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



# MORE MARVEL MASTERPIECES...



**ON SALE NOW!**



AND DON'T MISS **THIS SPECTACULAR !!!**



**SPIDEY  
 FACES  
 DAREDEVIL**

IN ONE OF THE MOST  
 EXCITING ISSUES OF  
 D.D. EVER TO HIT THE  
 STANDS!

IT'S THAT OLD-TIME  
 MARVEL MAGIC...  
 BOLDER, BOUNCIER, and  
 BETTER THAN EVER!



HERE COMES...  
**DAREDEVIL**  
 WITHOUT FEAR!

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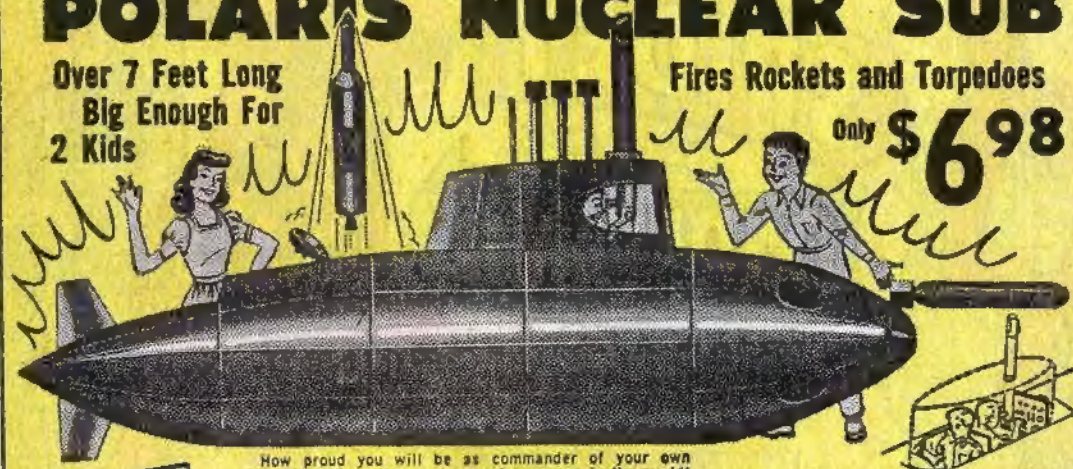
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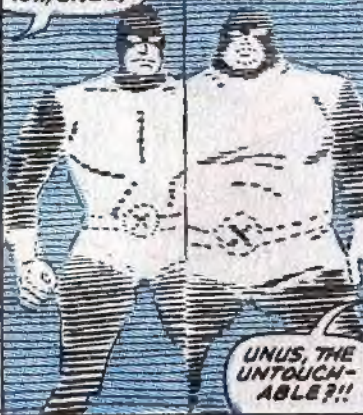
- FEATURES**
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THE RADAR-IMAGE BEAM WHICH I DEVELOPED WILL DETECT ANY OTHER MUTANTS IN THE AREA-- AND SHOW US THEIR FORMS, AS WELL!



AS WELL HE SHOULD! IT IS CLEAR THAT THE MASSIVE FIGURE IS INDEED... **THE BLOB!** AND THE OTHER, THE MACHINE REVEALS, IS... **UNUS!**



BUT, THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT, HE PROMISED TO REFORM IF WE DECLINED TO IMPRISON HIM!



DON'T BE TOO CONFIDENT, HANK! AFTER ALL, UNUS MAY HAVE DISCOVERED SOME WAY TO COUNTERACT THAT WEAPON BY NOW!

PROFESSOR--I JUST NOTICED! SCOTT ISN'T HERE! COULD ANYTHING HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM?

YEAH! IT ISN'T LIKE OLD GAMMA-GAZE TO MISS A CHANCE FOR ACTION!

IN ADDITION, I SENSE THAT A THIRD ENTITY HAS MASTERMINDED THIS ENTIRE SCHEME... TO DISCREDIT US-- SOMEONE OUT OF RANGE OF MY CEREBRO MACHINE!

SOMEONE HAD BEST INVESTIGATE HIS ABSENCE!



FIFTEEN SECONDS LATER, A BREATHLESS BOBBY BLAKE REAPPEARS--WITH DISTURBING NEWS...



IT'S--NO USE! OUR ADVERSARY HAS SET UP A MENTAL SCREEN! THERE IS ONE NAME WHICH ELUDES ME!

BY YOUR EXPRESSIONS, I SEE THAT OUR HIDDEN ENEMY'S SCREEN HAS AFFECTED YOU, TOO! THERE IS ONLY ONE SOLUTION!

I MUST BUILD A MECHANICAL MEMORY-INDUCER TO QUICKLY PENETRATE OUR FOE'S DEFENSES! MEANWHILE...

SCOTT--OH, SCOTT! WILL I NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN?

FOR ONCE, WE'RE WAY AHEAD OF YOU, PROFESSOR! IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO LET MY WINGS OUT OF THIS GET-UP ANYWAY!





BUT, EVEN AS THE TEEN-AGE  
MUTANTS PREPARE FOR BATTLE,  
THEY CANNOT SUSPECT THAT,  
TWO THOUSAND MILES AWAY,  
ONE PAIR OF EYES--COLD,  
HOSTILE; RELENTLESS--  
WATCHES INTENTLY FOR  
THEIR APPEARANCE...



SO, THE DIE IS CAST!  
UNUS AND THE BLOB  
HAVE UNWITTINGLY  
DONE MY BIDDING--AND  
A FOOLISH WORLD  
BELIEVES THEY ARE  
RENEGADE X-MEN,  
MERELY SEEKING  
WORLDLY TREASURE!

LITTLE DOES ANYONE--  
EVEN MY TWO MASQUER-  
ADING MINIONS--REALIZE  
THAT I, LUCIFER\*, HAVE  
IN MIND A PURPOSE FAR  
MORE COMPLEX, FAR  
MORE SINISTER!

\* THE VIVACIOUS VILLAIN OF X-MEN  
#9, RIGHT? RIGHT! ... OL' STAN.

"FOR, IT WAS ONLY DAYS AGO THAT, WHILE TESTING  
MY ULTRA-SCANNER, I DISCOVERED..."

"UNTOUCHABLE" HUH?  
WHEN I GET THRU WITH  
HIM, HE'LL BE  
UNAMENDABLE!



EASY, BLOB! I'VE  
HEARD'A THIS GUY!  
THEY SAY HE'S TOUGH!

NOBODY'S TOUGHER THAN THE BLOB!  
I'LL TEACH THAT RUBE TO BRING  
HIS CIRCUS INTO THE SAME TOWN  
WHERE MY CARNY'S PLAYIN'!

"THUS, FATE HAD PLACED WITHIN MY REACH TWO  
OF THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANTS IN THE WORLD!  
AND, AS I WAITED, BIDDING MY TIME..."

WHAT'S THIS? HAVE THE LOCAL  
YOKELS RUN OUTTA MEN, SO  
THEY HAVETA SEND HIPPOS  
AGAINST ME NOW?

I'M GONNA MAKE  
YOU SWALLOW THEM  
WORDS, BUSTER!

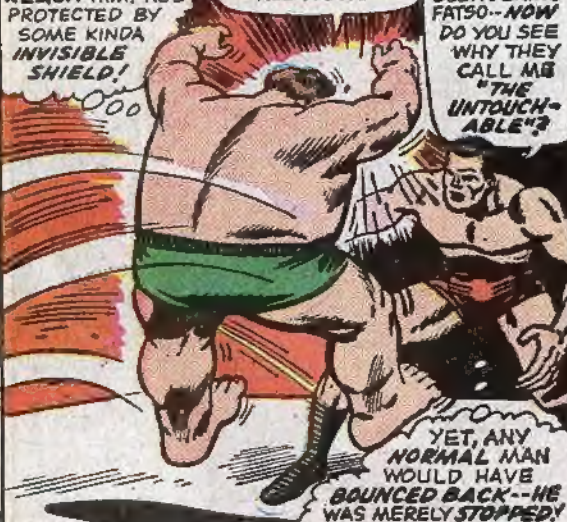


"HOWEVER..."

I DIDN'T EVEN  
REACH HIM! HE'S  
PROTECTED BY  
SOME KINDA  
INVISIBLE  
SHIELD!

BUT THERE'S NOTHIN' I CAN'T  
SMASH THRU...  
LEASTWAYS, NOT  
TILL NOW!

YOU  
BLUNDERING  
FATSO--NOW  
DO YOU SEE  
WHY THEY  
CALL ME  
"THE  
UNTOUCH-  
ABLE"?



YET, ANY  
NORMAL MAN  
WOULD HAVE  
BOUNCED BACK--HE  
WAS MERELY STOPPED!

I DON'T GET IT! NOBODY'S  
HALTED ME LIKE THAT  
EXCEPT--THE X-MEN!

NOW, THERE'S AN IDEA!  
WHAT IF THIS CLOWN IS  
A MUTANT--LIKE ME?

HE'S GETTING UP!  
BETTER MAKE MY  
MOVE--  
NOW!

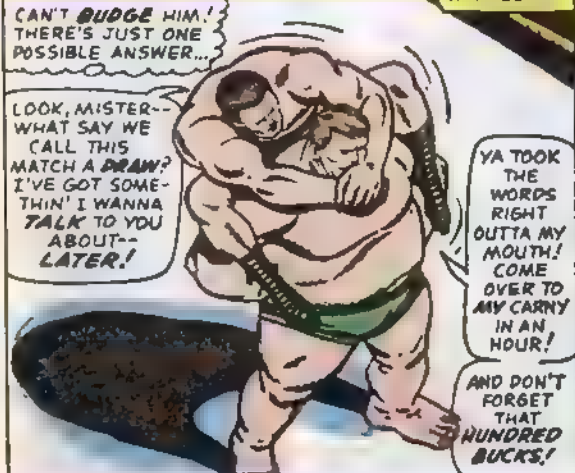




"BUT, UNUS FARED NO BETTER THAN HAD THE BLOB HIMSELF"

CAN'T BUDGE HIM!  
THERE'S JUST ONE  
POSSIBLE ANSWER...

LOOK, MISTER--  
WHAT SAY WE  
CALL THIS  
MATCH A DRAW?  
I'VE GOT SOME-  
THIN' I WANNA  
TALK TO YOU  
ABOUT--  
LATER!



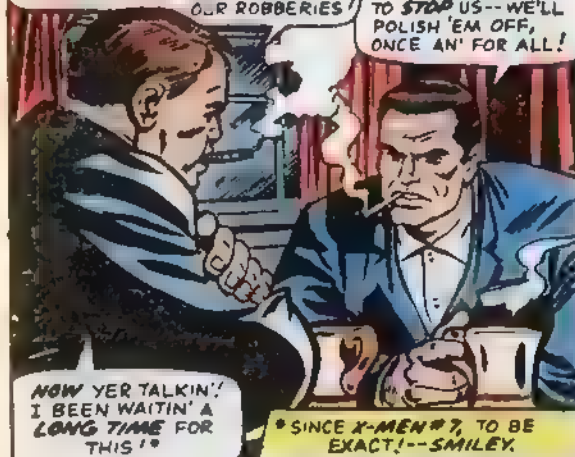
YA TOOK  
THE  
WORDS  
RIGHT  
OUTTA MY  
MOUTH!  
COME  
OVER TO  
MY CARRY  
IN AN  
HOUR!

AND DON'T  
FORGET  
THAT  
HUNDRED  
BUCKS!

"BEFORE LONG, INSIDE THE BLOB'S TRAILER..."

THEN IT'S SETTLED! SINCE WE  
BOTH GOT GRUDGES AGAINST THE  
X-MEN, WE'LL FRAME THEM FOR  
OUR ROBBERIES!

RIGHT! AND WHEN  
THOSE COSTUMED  
CLOWNS COME OUT  
TO STOP US--WE'LL  
POLISH 'EM OFF,  
ONCE AN' FOR ALL!

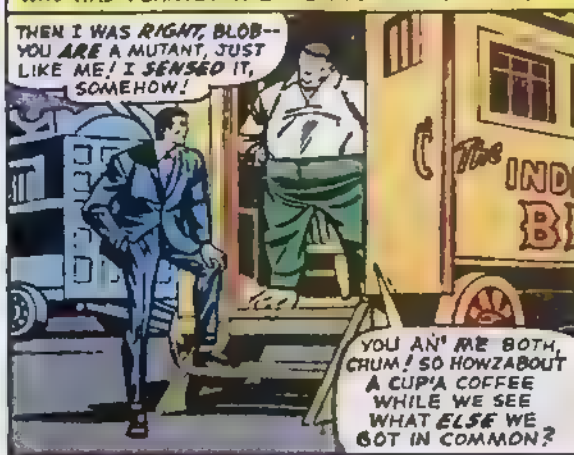


NOW YER TALKIN'  
I BEEN WAITIN' A  
LONG TIME FOR  
THIS!

\* SINCE X-MEN #7, TO BE  
EXACT! --SMILEY.

"AND SO, SOON AFTERWARD, THE TWO MONO-SUPERIORS  
MET AGAIN--LITTLE REALIZING IT WAS I, LUCIFER,  
WHO HAD PLANTED THE IDEA IN THEIR MINDS..."

THEN I WAS RIGHT, BLOB--  
YOU ARE A MUTANT, JUST  
LIKE ME! I SENSED IT,  
SOMEHOW!

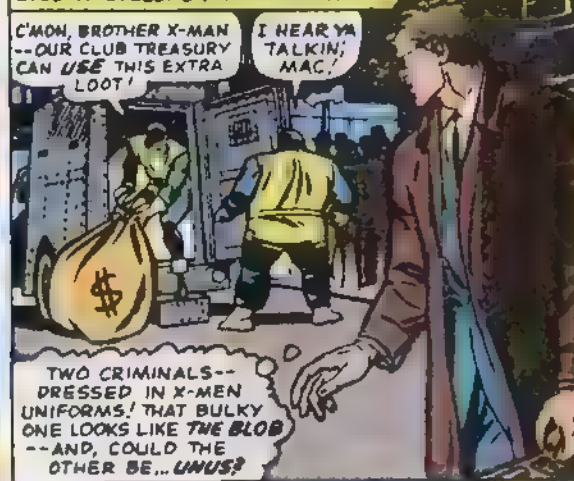


YOU AN' ME BOTH,  
CHUM! SO HOWABOUT  
A CUP'A COFFEE  
WHILE WE SEE  
WHAT ELSE WE  
GOT IN COMMON?

OKAY, MARVELITES--THAT'S ENOUGH OF LUCIFER'S  
SANGUINARY SOLILOQUIES FOR THE MOMENT, NOW, AS  
HIS HUMAN PUPPETS COMMIT THEIR SECOND CRIME, THE  
EYES OF CYCLOPS ARE UPON THEM...

C'MON, BROTHER X-MAN  
--OUR CLUB TREASURY  
CAN USE THIS EXTRA  
LOOT!

I HEAR YA  
TALKIN',  
MAC.



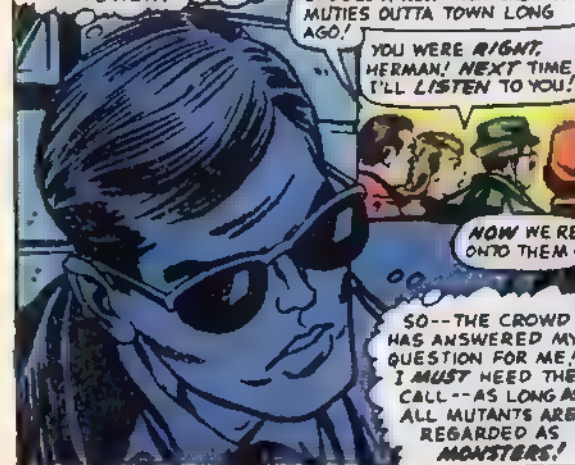
TWO CRIMINALS--  
DRESSED IN X-MEN  
UNIFORMS! THAT BULKY  
ONE LOOKS LIKE THE BLOB  
--AND, COULD THE  
OTHER BE... UNUS?

YET, THIS ISN'T MY AFFAIR--  
FOR I'VE PROMISED MYSELF  
NOT TO BECOME AN X-MAN  
AGAIN--UNTIL I CAN  
CONTROL MY AWESOME,  
POTENTIALLY DEADLY  
POWER!

BESIDES SURELY THE  
PUBLIC REALIZES THAT  
THEY'RE NOT REALLY  
X-MEN!

SEE, MABEL? I  
TOLD YOU WE  
SHOULD'A RUN THEM CRUMMY  
MUTIES OUTTA TOWN LONG  
AGO!

YOU WERE RIGHT,  
HERMAN! NEXT TIME  
I'LL LISTEN TO YOU!



NOW WE'RE  
ONTO THEM!

SO--THE CROWD  
HAS ANSWERED MY  
QUESTION FOR ME!  
I MUST NEED THE  
CALL--AS LONG AS  
ALL MUTANTS ARE  
REGARDED AS  
MONSTERS!

EXACTLY ONE MINUTE LATER...

ALL RIGHT, YOU MISGUIDED MISFITS!  
ONE OF THE REAL X-MEN IS HERE.  
NOW, WHICH OF YOU WANTS TO BE  
THE FIRST TO CONFESS YOU'RE BOTH  
PHONIES?

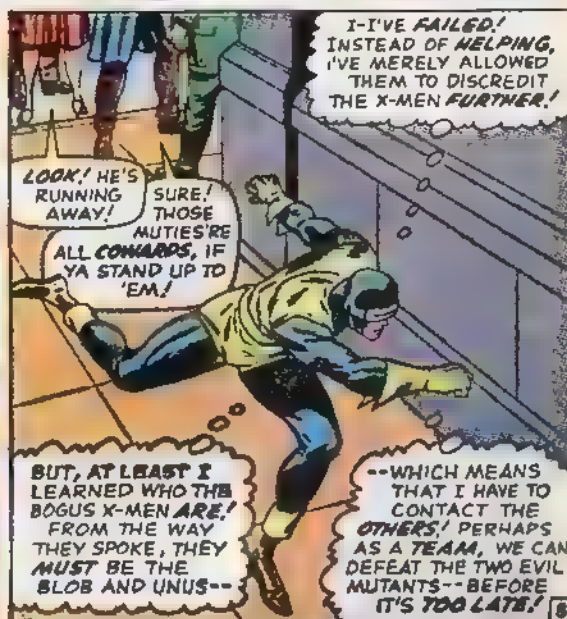
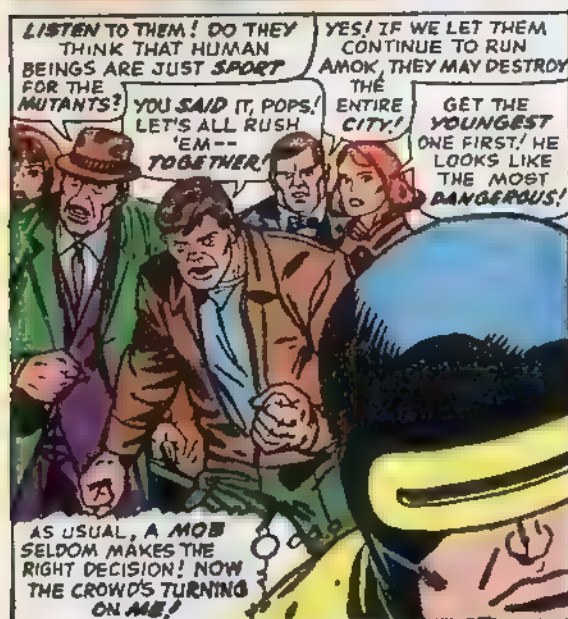
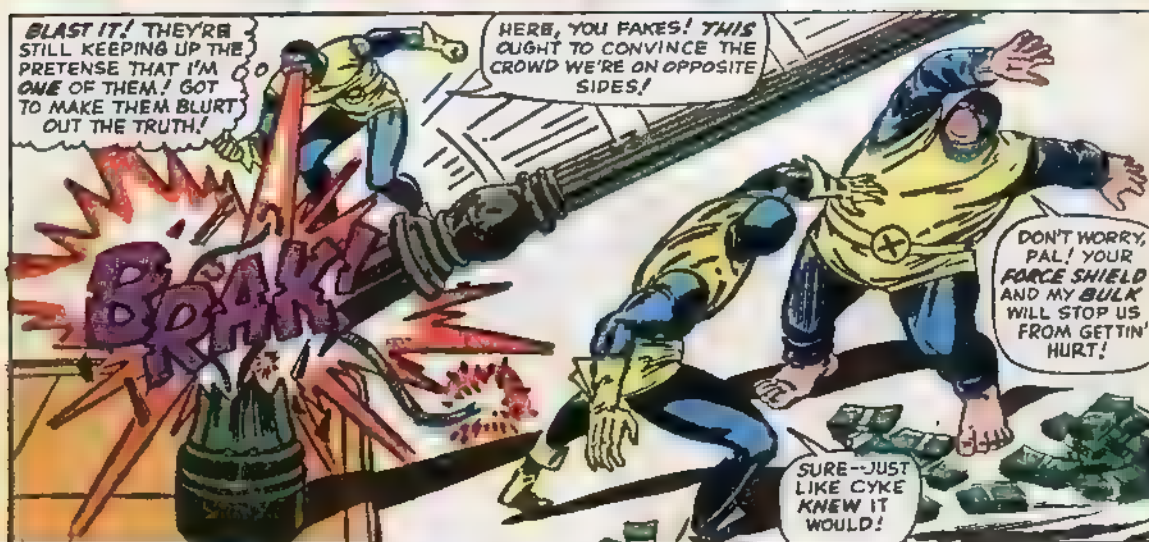
PHONIES? DOES  
HE MEAN THAT  
THOSE OTHER TWO  
--ARE JUST  
IMPOSTERS? I'LL  
BET  
THEY'RE ALL  
IN ON IT!



HEY, LOOK,  
PARTNER--  
IT'S CYCLOPS!  
WE THOUGHT  
YOU'D NEVER  
MAKE IT, CYKE,  
OL' BUDDY!

YEAH! HELP  
US WITH THIS  
MONEY-SACK,  
WILLYA, KID?





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE





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Print Your  
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 Plainly Here

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



MEANWHILE, THE NEFARIOUS LUCIFER IS ALSO UPSET, THOUGH FOR QUITE DIFFERENT REASONS...

HAVE MY PLANS ALL COME TO NAUGHT? DOES ONLY ONE X-MAN DARE TO ATTACK MY COSTUMED DUPES?

IT CANNOT BE! I HAVE PLANNED TOO CAREFULLY! THEY MUST ATTACK--AS A TEAM!!

BUT--PERHAPS I SPOKE TOO SOON! FOR, THERE IS THE MUTANT KNOWN AS...THE ANGEL! HE FLIES TOWARDS UNUS AND THE BLOB!

AND, IF ANGEL COMES, CAN THE OTHER X-MEN BE FAR BEHIND?

THE NEXT SECOND, LUCIFER'S RINGING WORDS COME TRUE, AS...

DON'T FORGET, GROUP--'TIS THE BEAST WHO GETS FIRST DIBS AT OUR TWO ADVERSARIES!

HOLY HANNAH! THREE MORE MUTANTS!

YOU CAN HAVE 'EM, BEASTIE-BOY! BUT, I'LL BE HOVERING NEARBY, JUST IN CASE!

WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GLORY-BOYS SHOWED UP! WE BEEN WAITIN' FOR YA!

THEN, ARMED WITH THE WEAPON WHICH ONCE BEFORE DEFEATED THE AWESOME UNUS, THE ANTHROPOID X-MAN MAKES HIS PLAY.

IT GRIEVES ME TO THE QUICK, FECKLESS FOE, TO REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE DISAVOWED YOUR PLEDGE OF ETERNAL HONESTY!

NOW, PREPARE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR IMPRUDENT ACT!

QUIT YAKKIN' AND FIRE AWAY, FOOL! I DON'T HAVE ALL DAY TO LISTEN TO YOU!

AS YOU WILL, MY FRIEND! ONE DOSE OF THIS DEVICE, AND YOUR MUTANT POWER WILL NO LONGER BE YOURS TO CONTROL!

THAT'S STRANGE-- HE SEEMS TO BE REACTING DIFFERENTLY THAN HE DID BEFORE...

MY NUTTY HUNCH WAS RIGHT!

I AM NOW IMMUNE TO THE BEAST'S BLASTED RAY!

AND, AS THE BLINDING GLARE FADES AWAY...

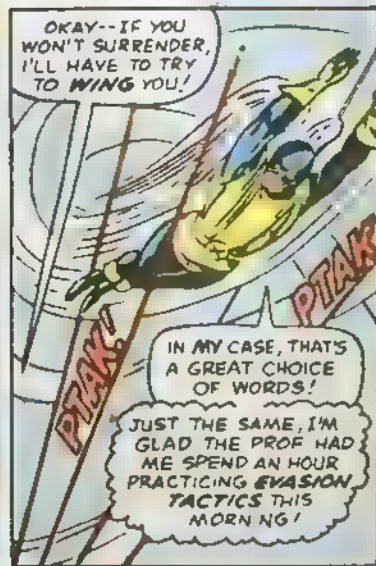
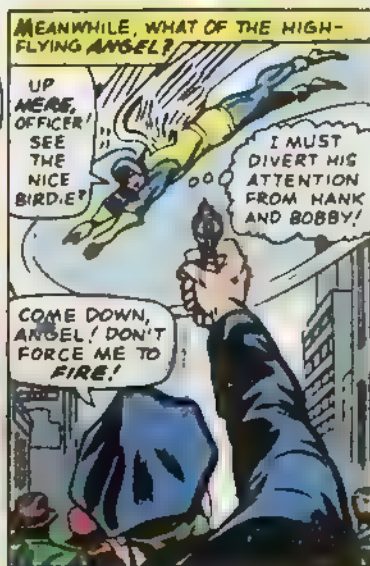
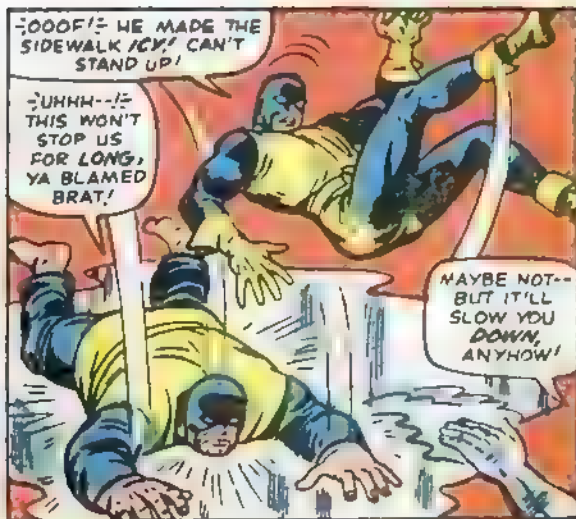
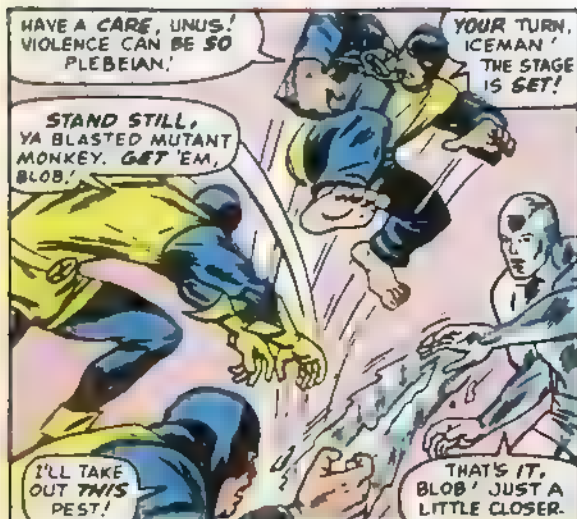
OKAY, YOU JUNIOR-GRADE GORILLA! NOW IT'S MY TURN -- I BEEN WAITIN' FOR THIS MOMENT FOR MORE THAN A YEAR!

A TRUE PARAGON OF PATIENCE!

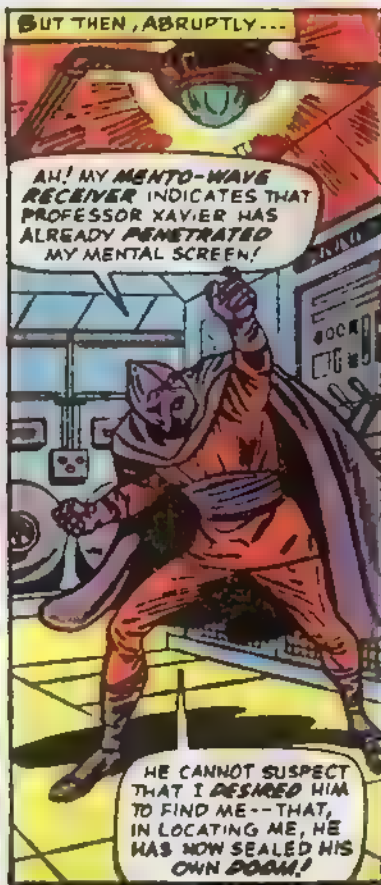
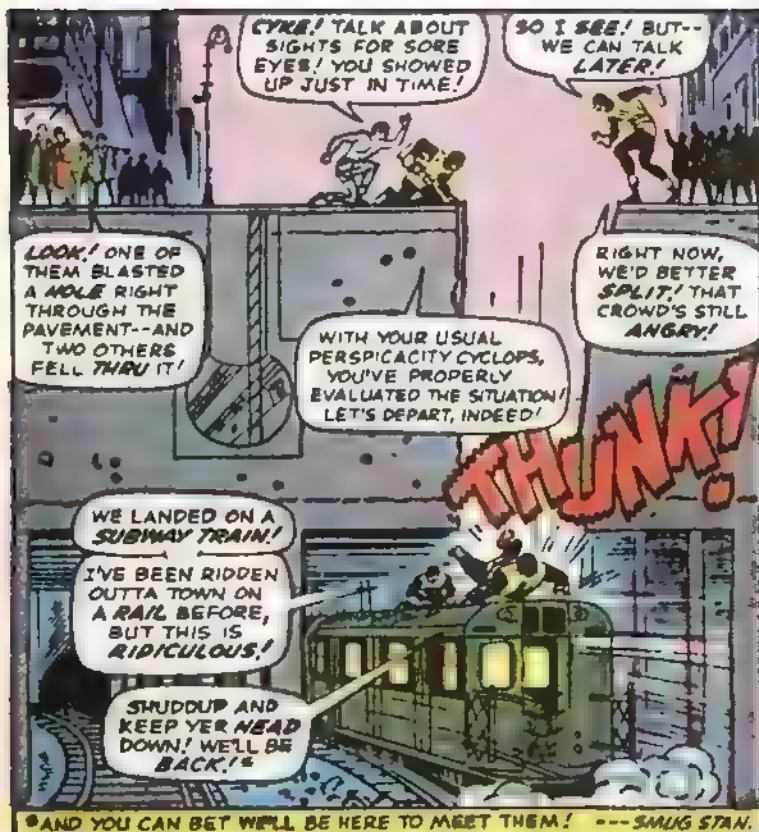
NEITHER OF THEM SUSPECTS THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR UNUS' IMMUNITY--AND ALSO FOR HIS "HUNCH" THAT THE RAY WOULD NO LONGER AFFECT HIM!

FOR, I POSSESS POWERS THAT THE WORLD CAN SCARCELY IMAGINE!



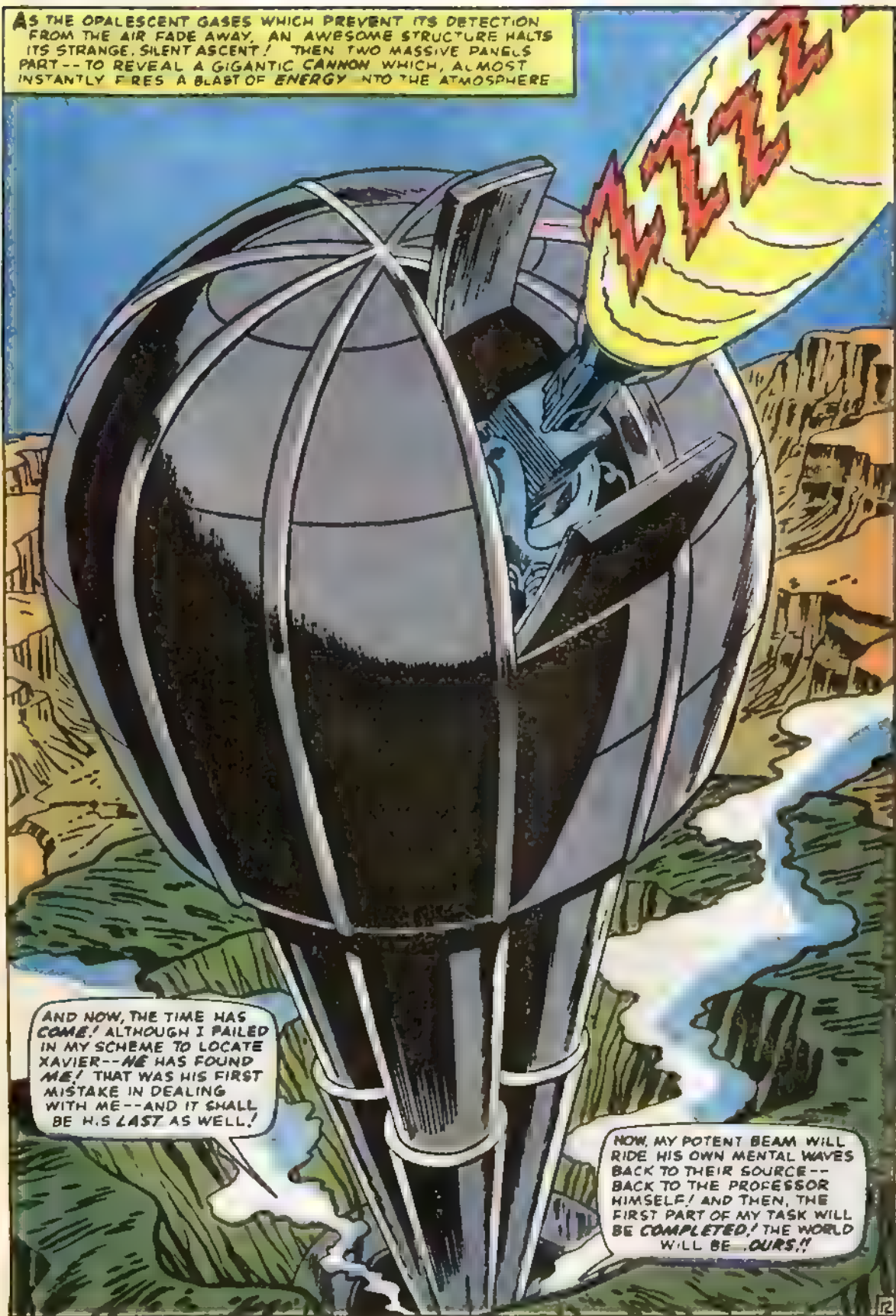








AS THE OPALESCENT GASES WHICH PREVENT ITS DETECTION FROM THE AIR FADE AWAY, AN AWESOME STRUCTURE HALTS ITS STRANGE, SILENT ASCENT! THEN TWO MASSIVE PANELS PART--TO REVEAL A GIGANTIC CANNON WHICH, ALMOST INSTANTLY FIRES A BLAST OF ENERGY INTO THE ATMOSPHERE



AND NOW, THE TIME HAS COME! ALTHOUGH I FAILED IN MY SCHEME TO LOCATE XAVIER--HE HAS FOUND ME! THAT WAS HIS FIRST MISTAKE IN DEALING WITH ME--AND IT SHALL BE HIS LAST AS WELL!

NOW, MY POTENT BEAM WILL RIDE HIS OWN MENTAL WAVES BACK TO THEIR SOURCE--BACK TO THE PROFESSOR HIMSELF! AND THEN, THE FIRST PART OF MY TASK WILL BE COMPLETED! THE WORLD WILL BE OURS!!



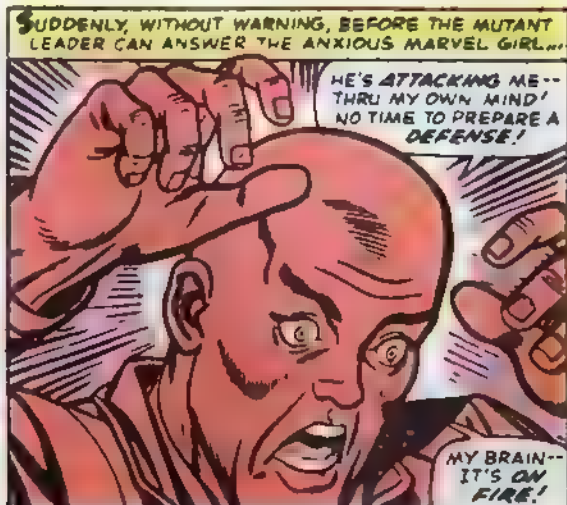


AT THAT SELF-SAME INSTANT, A CONTINGENT AWAY.

WITH THIS DEVICE, I HAVE MENTALLY PIN-POINTED OUR HIDDEN ANTAGONIST!

SO--IT IS ME! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!

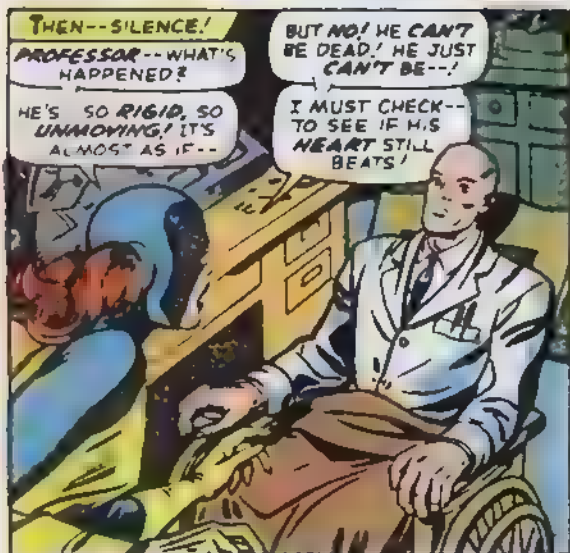
PROFESSOR-- WHO IS IT? CAN YOU TELL ME?



SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, BEFORE THE MUTANT LEADER CAN ANSWER THE ANXIOUS MARVEL GIRL...

HE'S ATTACKING ME-- THRU MY OWN MIND! NO TIME TO PREPARE A DEFENSE!

MY BRAIN-- IT'S ON FIRE!



THEN--SILENCE!

PROFESSOR-- WHAT'S HAPPENED?

HE'S SO RIGID, SO UNMOVING! IT'S ALMOST AS IF--

BUT NO! HE CAN'T BE DEAD! HE JUST CAN'T BE--!

I MUST CHECK-- TO SEE IF HIS HEART STILL BEATS!



THANK HEAVEN--HE'S ALIVE! AND YET, HIS HEARTBEAT IS SO SLOW--HE MUST BE CONTINUING TO BREATHE BY SHEER MENTAL EFFORT! BUT--HE CANNOT MOVE!

THAT IS CORRECT, JEAN! YOU MUST USE MENTAL-WAVE AMPLIFIER-- AT ONCE!

IN MY MIND--I CAN READ HIS THOUGHTS! BUT, THEY'RE FAINT--DISTANT!

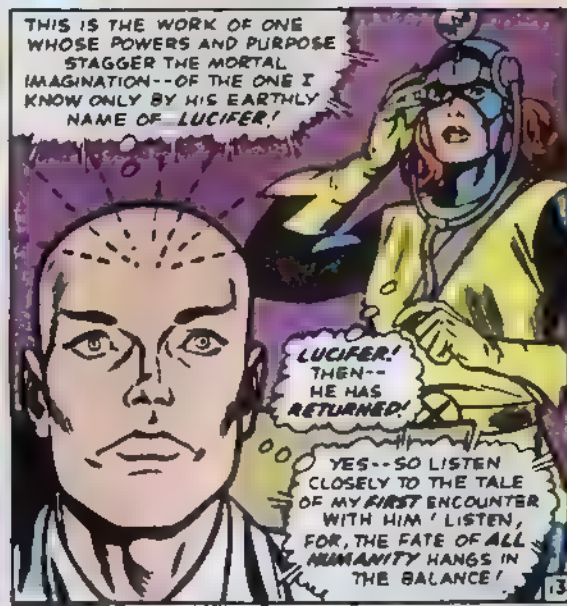


COMPLYING WITH PROFESSOR X'S URGENT COMMAND, JEAN ABRUPTLY DISCOVERS...

WHY--NOW YOUR THOUGHTS ARE COMING THRU MORE CLEARLY!

GOOD! THEN HEED MY WORDS--FOR I MAY HAVE LITTLE TIME!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR PLIGHT?



THIS IS THE WORK OF ONE WHOSE POWERS AND PURPOSE STAGGER THE MORTAL IMAGINATION--OF THE ONE I KNOW ONLY BY HIS EARTHLY NAME OF LUCIFER!

LUCIFER! THEN--HE HAS RETURNED!

YES--SO LISTEN CLOSELY TO THE TALE OF MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH HIM! LISTEN, FOR, THE FATE OF ALL HUMANITY HANGS IN THE BALANCE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



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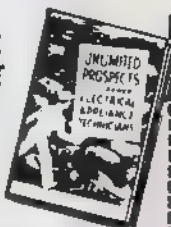
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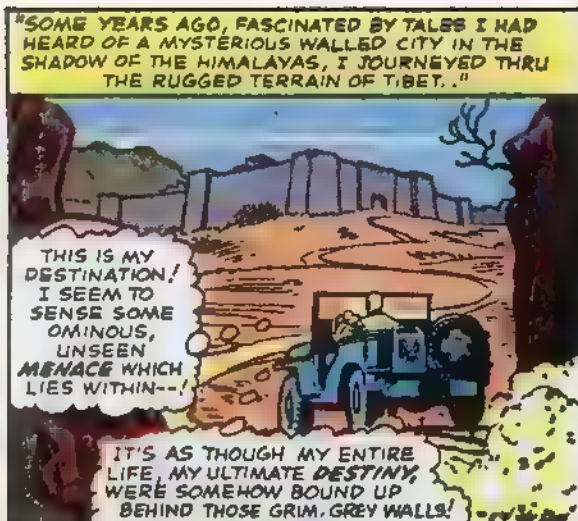
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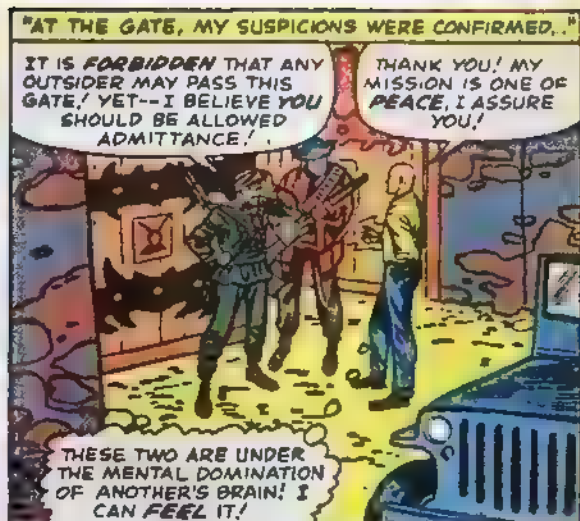
"SOME YEARS AGO, FASCINATED BY TALES I HAD HEARD OF A MYSTERIOUS WALLED CITY IN THE SHADOW OF THE HIMALAYAS, I JOURNEYED THRU THE RUGGED TERRAIN OF TIBET."



THIS IS MY DESTINATION! I SEEM TO SENSE SOME OMINOUS, UNSEEN MENACE WHICH LIES WITHIN--!

IT'S AS THOUGH MY ENTIRE LIFE, MY ULTIMATE DESTINY, WERE SOMEHOW BOUND UP BEHIND THOSE GRIM, GREY WALLS!

"AT THE GATE, MY SUSPICIONS WERE CONFIRMED."

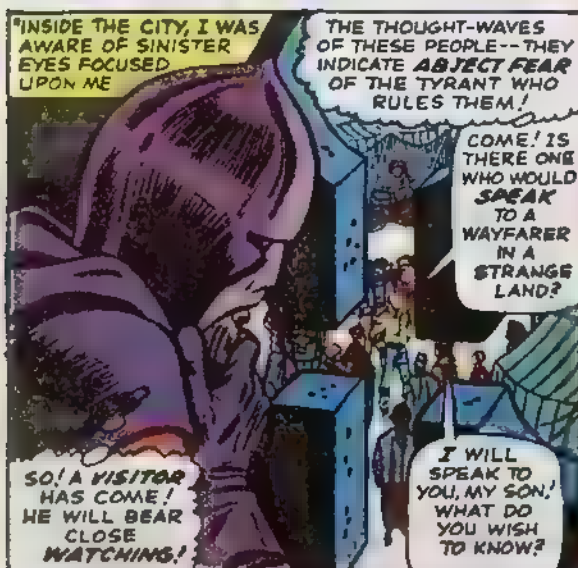


IT IS **FORBIDDEN** THAT ANY OUTSIDER MAY PASS THIS GATE, YET--I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD BE ALLOWED ADMITTANCE!

THANK YOU! MY MISSION IS ONE OF PEACE, I ASSURE YOU!

THESE TWO ARE UNDER THE MENTAL DOMINATION OF ANOTHER'S BRAIN! I CAN FEEL IT!

"INSIDE THE CITY, I WAS AWARE OF SINISTER EYES FOCUSED UPON ME"



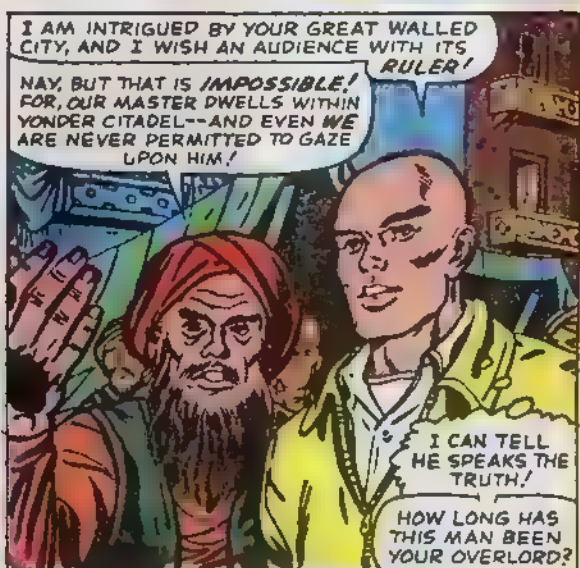
THE THOUGHT-WAVES OF THESE PEOPLE--THEY INDICATE **ABJECT FEAR** OF THE TYRANT WHO RULES THEM!

COME! IS THERE ONE WHO WOULD **SPEAK** TO A WAYFARER IN A STRANGE LAND?

SO! A VISITOR HAS COME! HE WILL BEAR CLOSE WATCHING!

I WILL SPEAK TO YOU, MY SON! WHAT DO YOU WISH TO KNOW?

I AM INTRIGUED BY YOUR GREAT WALLED CITY, AND I WISH AN AUDIENCE WITH ITS RULER!

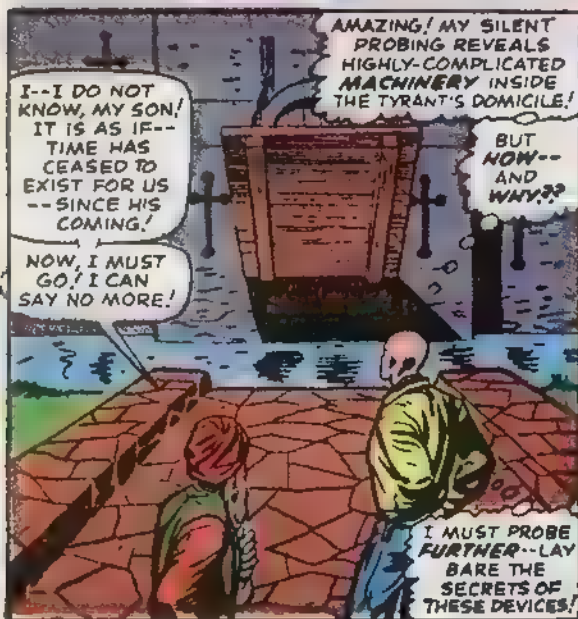


NAY, BUT THAT IS **IMPOSSIBLE!** FOR, OUR MASTER DWELLS WITHIN YONDER CITADEL--AND EVEN WE ARE NEVER PERMITTED TO GAZE UPON HIM!

I CAN TELL HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH!

HOW LONG HAS THIS MAN BEEN YOUR OVERLORD?

AMAZING! MY SILENT PROBING REVEALS HIGHLY-COMPLICATED MACHINERY INSIDE THE TYRANT'S DOMICILE!



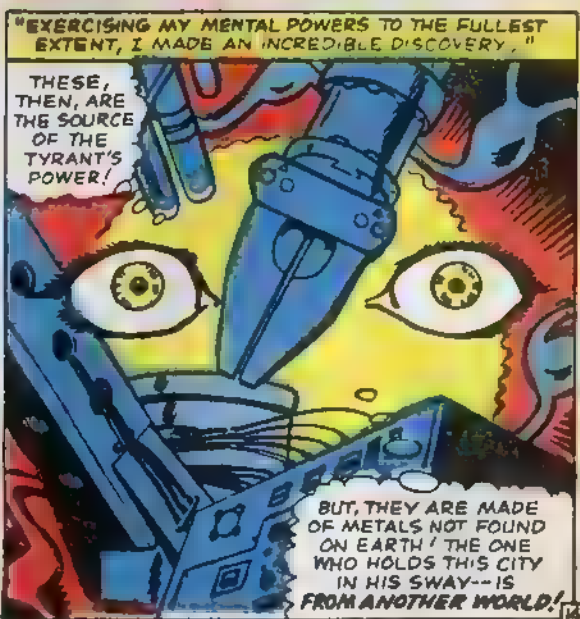
I--I DO NOT KNOW, MY SON! IT IS AS IF--TIME HAS CEASED TO EXIST FOR US--SINCE HIS COMING!

NOW, I MUST GO! I CAN SAY NO MORE!

BUT **NOW--AND WHY??**

I MUST PROBE FURTHER--LAY BARE THE SECRETS OF THESE DEVICES!

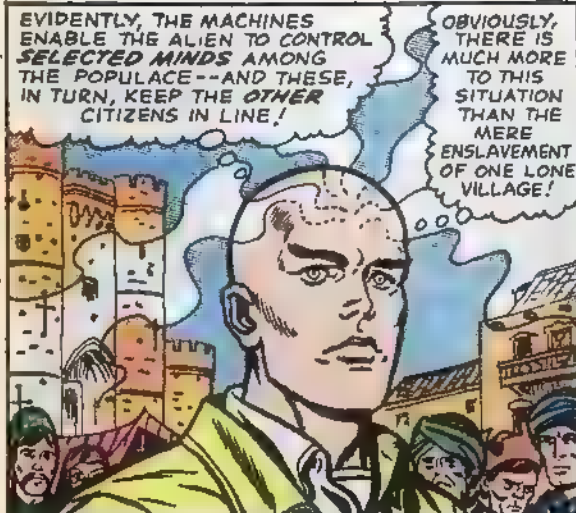
"EXERCISING MY MENTAL POWERS TO THE FULLEST EXTENT, I MADE AN INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY."



THESE, THEN, ARE THE SOURCE OF THE TYRANT'S POWER!

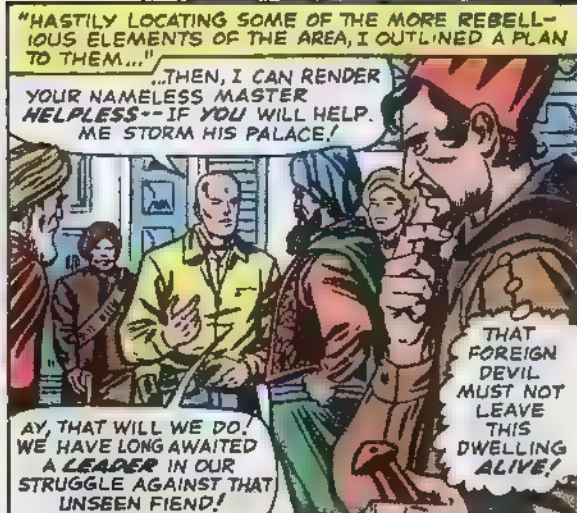
BUT, THEY ARE MADE OF METALS NOT FOUND ON EARTH! THE ONE WHO HOLDS THIS CITY IN HIS SWAY--IS FROM ANOTHER WORLD!





EVIDENTLY, THE MACHINES  
ENABLE THE ALIEN TO CONTROL  
**SELECTED MINDS** AMONG  
THE POPULACE--AND THESE,  
IN TURN, KEEP THE **OTHER**  
CITIZENS IN LINE!

OBVIOUSLY,  
THERE IS  
MUCH MORE  
TO THIS  
SITUATION  
THAN THE  
MERE  
ENSLAVEMENT  
OF ONE LONE  
VILLAGE!



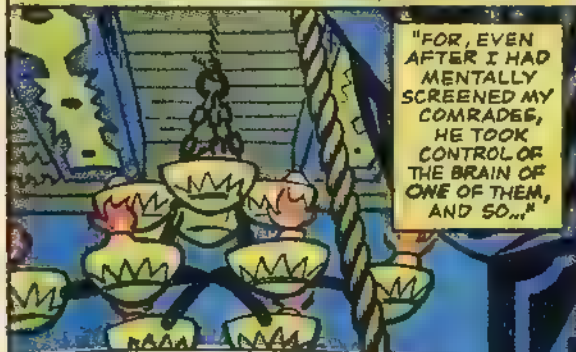
"HASTILY LOCATING SOME OF THE MORE REBELLIOUS  
ELEMENTS OF THE AREA, I OUTLINED A PLAN  
TO THEM..."

"...THEN, I CAN RENDER  
YOUR NAMELESS MASTER  
**HELPLESS**--IF YOU WILL HELP  
ME STORM HIS PALACE!"

AY, THAT WILL WE DO!  
WE HAVE LONG AWAITED  
A **LEADER** IN OUR  
STRUGGLE AGAINST THAT  
UNSEEN FIEND!

THAT  
FOREIGN  
DEVIL  
MUST NOT  
LEAVE  
THIS  
DWELLING  
ALIVE!

"BUT, I HAD UNDERESTIMATED THE TRUE CUNNING  
AND POWER OF MY RELENTLESS, VIGILANT FOE..."



"FOR, EVEN  
AFTER I HAD  
MENTALLY  
SCREENED MY  
COMRADES,  
HE TOOK  
CONTROL OF  
THE BRAIN OF  
ONE OF THEM,  
AND SO..."

BY MEANS YOU WOULD NOT UNDER-  
STAND, I HAVE LOCATED A **TUNNEL**  
INTO THE CASTLE! ONCE INSIDE,  
WE WILL OVERTHROW ANY GUARDS  
--AND YOUR ANCIENT HOMELAND  
WILL BE **FREE** AGAIN!

**FREE!** DARE WE **HOP**  
FOR SUCH A THING?

LONG AGO, WE WERE  
OUR OWN MASTERS!  
CAN SUCH A DAY  
DAWN ONCE MORE?

IT CAN--  
IF YOU  
ACT  
**SWIFTLY!**



NOW--I  
STRIKE!  
DEATH TO  
ALL WHO  
WOULD  
REBEL!

"THE NEXT INSTANT..."



**LOOK OUT!**  
THAT  
CHANDELIER--  
IT'S  
**FALLING--!**

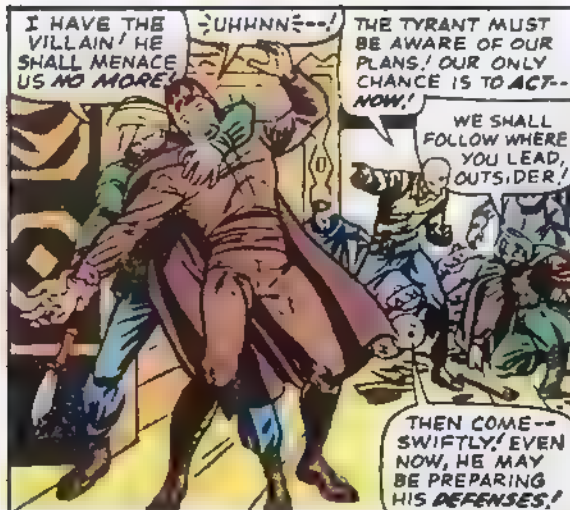
**HOLD!**  
WHAT  
TRAITOR'S  
DEED IS  
THIS?

LUCKILY, MY MUTANT  
BRAIN SENSED  
**TREACHERY** FROM  
SOMEONE IN THE  
ROOM--NOT A  
MOMENT TOO SOON!

BY THE  
ETERNAL--!

THE  
MASTER  
--HE  
KNOWS  
OF OUR  
PLOT  
AGAINST  
HIM!





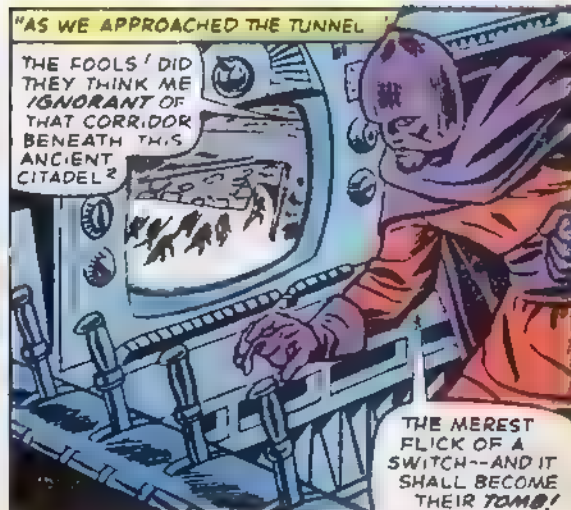
I HAVE THE VILLAIN! HE SHALL MENACE US NO MORE!

UHHNN--!

THE TYRANT MUST BE AWARE OF OUR PLANS! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO ACT-- NOW!

WE SHALL FOLLOW WHERE YOU LEAD, OUTSIDER!

THEN COME-- SWIFTLY! EVEN NOW, HE MAY BE PREPARING HIS DEFENSES!



"AS WE APPROACHED THE TUNNEL"

THE FOOLS! DID THEY THINK ME IGNORANT OF THAT CORRIDOR BENEATH THIS ANCIENT CITADEL?

THE MEREST FLICK OF A SWITCH--AND IT SHALL BECOME THEIR TOMB!



THAT RUMBLING--! THE WALLS THEMSELVES ARE CLOSING IN ON US!

NOTHING CAN STOP THEM! WE FOLLOWED THE STRANGER-- TO OUR DOOM!

NO--DON'T GIVE UP! KEEP STRUGGLING-- THERE IS STILL A WAY--!

I MUST HOPE AND PRAY THAT MY MUTANT BRAIN CAN LOCATE THE MACHINERY WHICH MOVES THESE WALLS WITHIN MOMENTS!



"FORTUNATELY, THE FATES WERE WITH ME--AND, FIFTEEN ANXIOUS SECONDS LATER..."

I'VE FOUND IT! ALREADY, AS I RIP THESE ESSENTIAL WIRES, THE WALLS BEGIN TO OPEN AGAIN!

BUT--WATT! THAT HISSING SOUND BEHIND ME--!



A BALL OF FIRE--RUSHING TOWARDS US THRU THE TUNNEL! NO PLACE TO RUN--!

YET, THERE IS STILL A CHANCE!

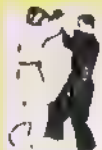
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# NOW . . . FEAR NO MAN! DON'T BE BULLIED! TURN YOUR HANDS into "EXPLOSIVE" DEFENSE MECHANISM!

You can lick your weight in tigers as a skilled FEARLESS MASTER OF ORIENTAL FIGHTING ARTS  
PHYSICAL STRENGTH NOT NEEDED! JUDO . . . KUNG FU . . .

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- ★ 27 vital body points that disable
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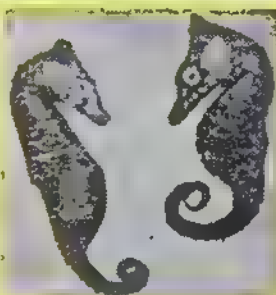
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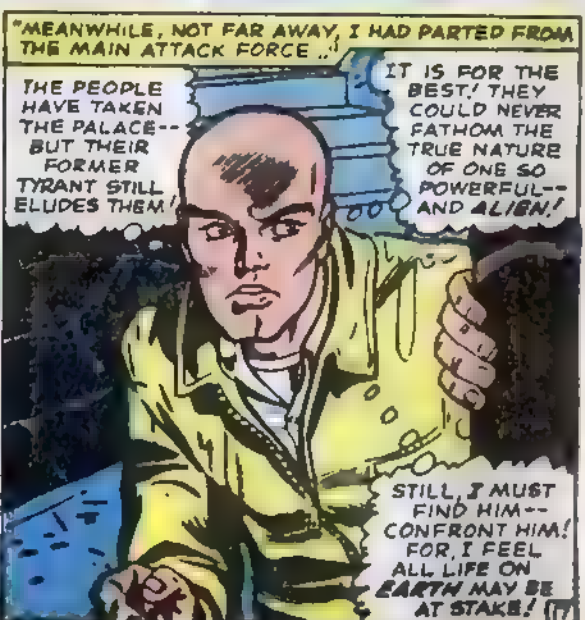
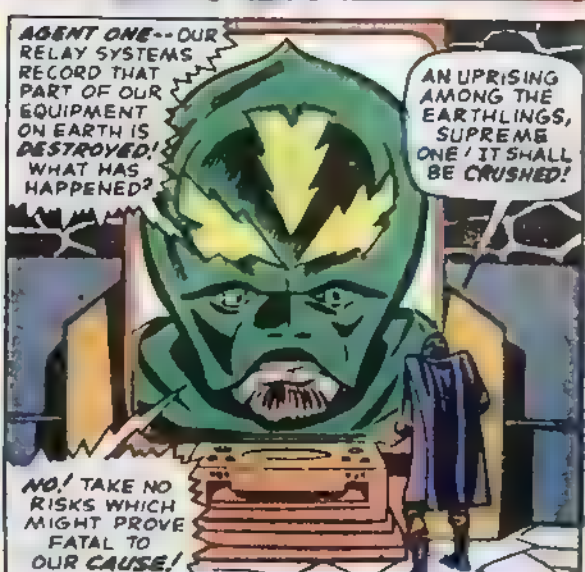
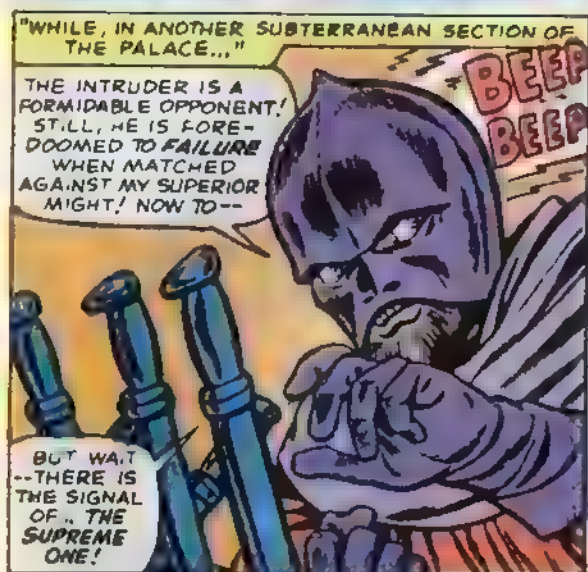
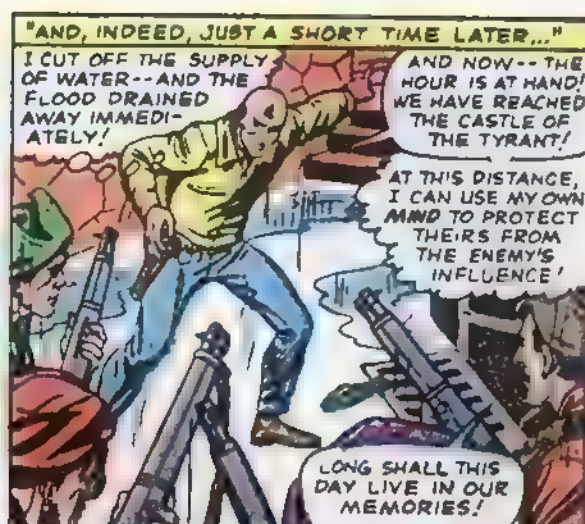
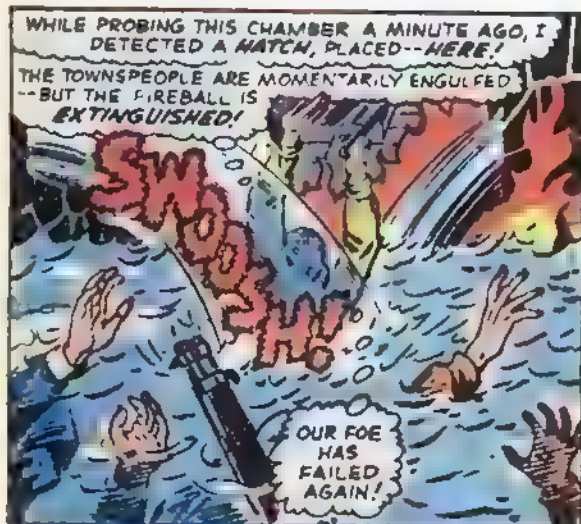
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"THEN ROUNDING  
A CORNER

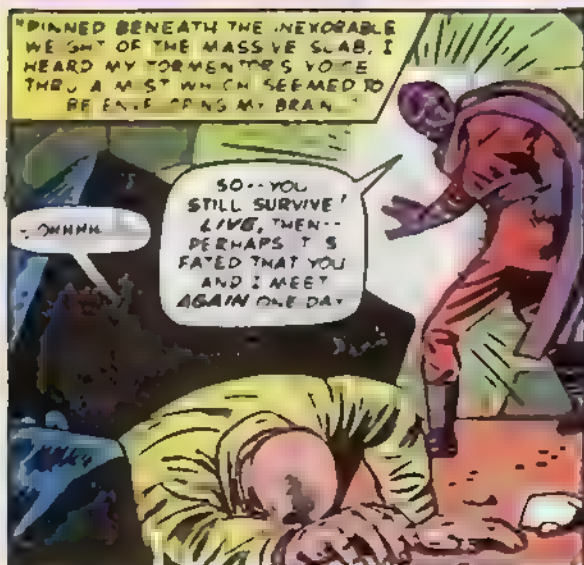
SO IT IS YOU WHO  
HAVE TYRANNIZED  
THIS CITY!  
WHO ARE  
YOU AND  
WHERE  
ARE YOU  
FROM?

MY TRUE  
PURPOSE  
YOU SHALL  
NEVER KNOW  
BUT ON THIS  
PLANET I  
CALL MYSELF  
LUCIFER!



AND NOW-- THAT NAME  
SHALL BE THE FINAL  
THING YOU HEAR PREPARE  
TO DIE-- FOR DARING TO  
OPPOSE THAT WHICH NO  
MORTAL CAN  
COMPREHEND

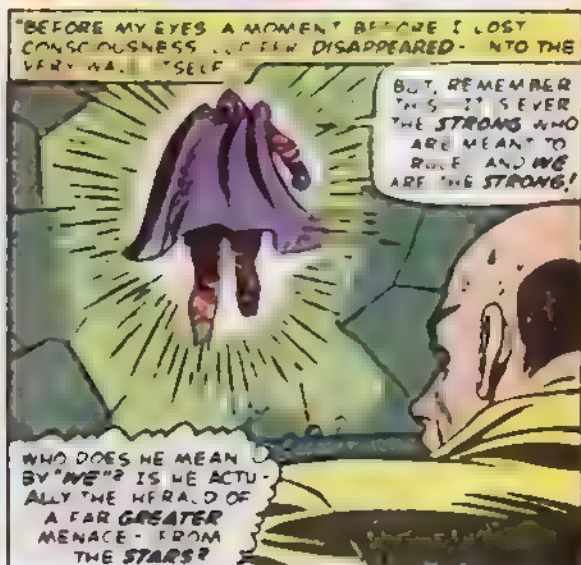
THAT GREAT SLAB--  
RELEASED FROM ABOVE  
AT THE TOUCH OF A  
SAYING I CAN'T  
DODGE-- IN TIME!



"PINNED BENEATH THE INEXORABLE  
WEIGHT OF THE MASSIVE SLAB, I  
HEARD MY TORMENTOR'S VOICE  
THRU A MIST WHICH SEEMED TO  
BE ENTERING MY BRAIN--

SO-- YOU  
STILL SURVIVE!  
LIVE, THEN--  
PERHAPS IT'S  
FATED THAT YOU  
AND I MEET  
AGAIN ONE DAY

"OHMM



"BEFORE MY EYES A MOMENT BEFORE I LOST  
CONSCIOUSNESS-- I FEEL DISAPPEARED-- INTO THE  
VERY WALL-- MYSELF

BUT, REMEMBER  
THIS-- IT'S SEVER  
THE STRONG WHO  
ARE MEANT TO  
RULE AND WE  
ARE THE STRONG!

WHO DOES HE MEAN  
BY "WE"? IS HE ACTU-  
ALLY THE HERALD OF  
A FAR GREATER  
MENACE-- FROM  
THE STARS?

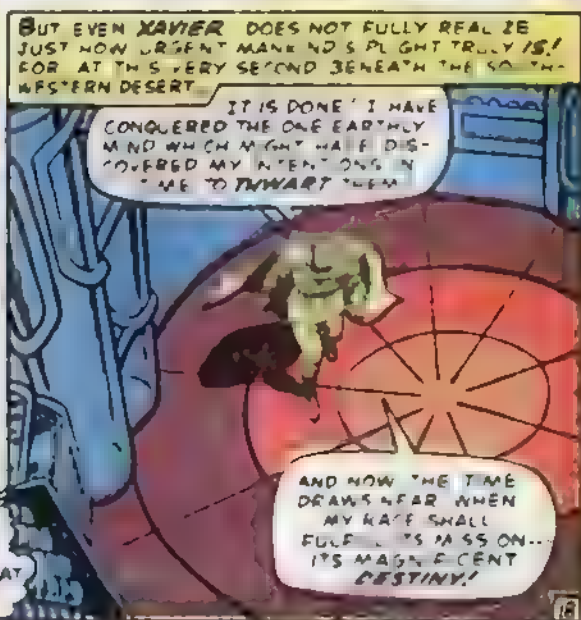


THEN AS THE PARALYZED MENTAL MUTANT CONCLUDES  
HIS STARTLING NARRATION--

THEN-- THAT'S HOW  
YOU LOST THE USE OF  
YOUR LEGS YEARS  
AGO!

YES, JEAN' AND,  
IT IS YET  
ANOTHER REASON  
WHY I FOUNDED  
THE X-MEN!

FOR I KNEW  
THAT ONE DAY  
MANKIND WOULD  
HAVE TO MEET  
THE RENEWED THREAT  
OF LUCIFER!

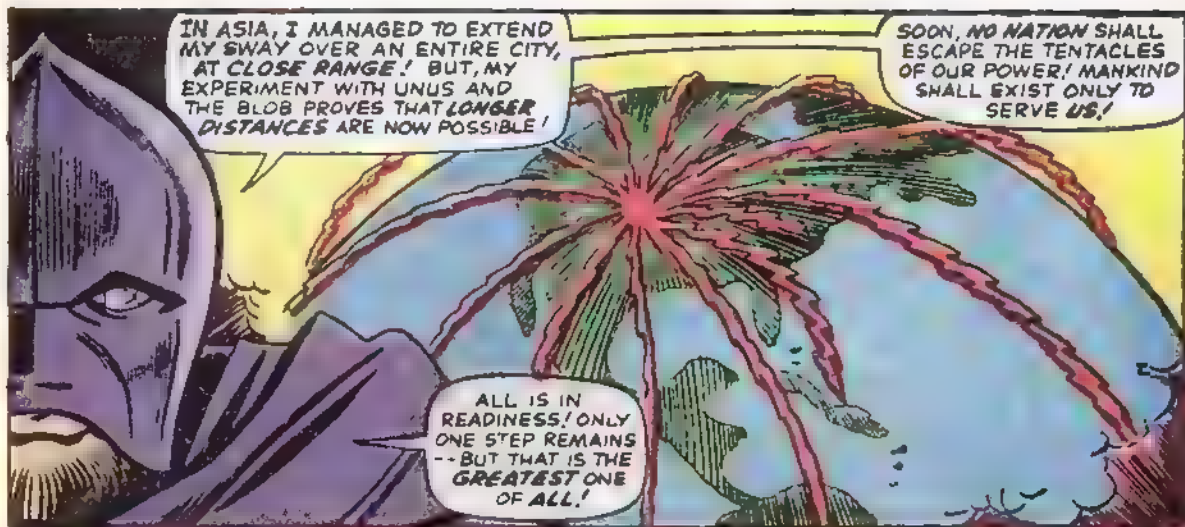


BUT EVEN XAVIER DOES NOT FULLY REALIZE  
JUST HOW URGENT MANKIND'S PLIGHT TRULY IS!  
FOR AT THIS VERY SECOND BENEATH THE SAHARA  
WESTERN DESERT--

IT IS DONE! I HAVE  
CONQUERED THE ONE EARTHLY  
MIND WHICH MIGHT HAVE DIS-  
COVERED MY INTENTIONS IN  
TIME TO THWART THEM

AND NOW THE TIME  
DRAWS NEAR WHEN  
MY RACE SHALL  
FULFILL ITS MASSIVE  
MAGNETIC  
DESTINY!

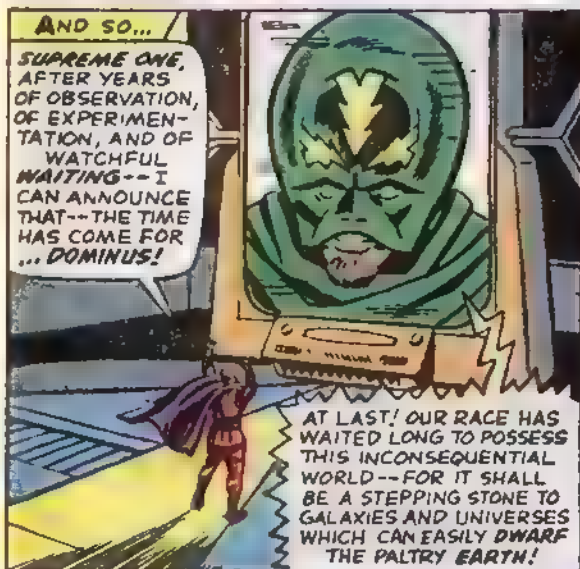




IN ASIA, I MANAGED TO EXTEND MY SWAY OVER AN ENTIRE CITY, AT CLOSE RANGE! BUT, MY EXPERIMENT WITH UNUS AND THE BLOB PROVES THAT LONGER DISTANCES ARE NOW POSSIBLE!

SOON, NO NATION SHALL ESCAPE THE TENTACLES OF OUR POWER! MANKIND SHALL EXIST ONLY TO SERVE US!

ALL IS IN READINESS! ONLY ONE STEP REMAINS -- BUT THAT IS THE GREATEST ONE OF ALL!



AND SO...

SUPREME ONE, AFTER YEARS OF OBSERVATION, OF EXPERIMENTATION, AND OF WATCHFUL WAITING-- I CAN ANNOUNCE THAT--THE TIME HAS COME FOR ... DOMINUS!

AT LAST! OUR RACE HAS WAITED LONG TO POSSESS THIS INCONSEQUENTIAL WORLD--FOR IT SHALL BE A STEPPING STONE TO GALAXIES AND UNIVERSES WHICH CAN EASILY DWARF THE PALTRY EARTH!



THEREFORE, LET THE HUMANS AWAIT... THE COMING OF DOMINUS!



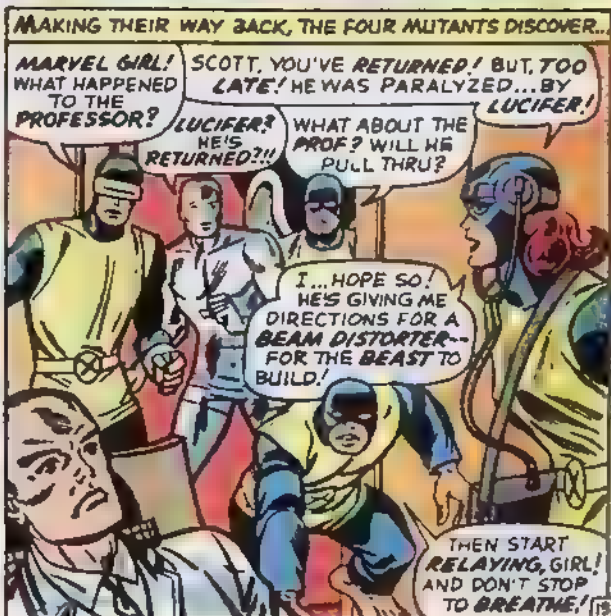
MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF THE EARTH-SHATTERING EVENTS WHICH HAVE TRANSPIRED SINCE THEY LEFT WESTCHESTER, THE FUGITIVE X-MEN PREPARE TO RETURN TO THEIR UNIQUE SCHOOL...

IT'S SAFE TO VENTURE OUT NOW! IF NO ONE SEES MY WHITE WINGS, THE REST OF YOU ARE IN THE CLEAR!

BOY! I THOUGHT IT WAS NEVER GONNA GET DARK!

DON'T RELAX YOUR VIGILANCE, BOBBY!

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, CYCLOPS, THAT SEEMS A MOST SUPERFLUOUS PIECE OF ADVICE!



MAKING THEIR WAY BACK, THE FOUR MUTANTS DISCOVER...

MARVEL GIRL! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PROFESSOR?

SCOTT, YOU'VE RETURNED! BUT, TOO LATE! HE WAS PARALYZED... BY LUCIFER!

LUCIFER? HE'S RETURNED?!!

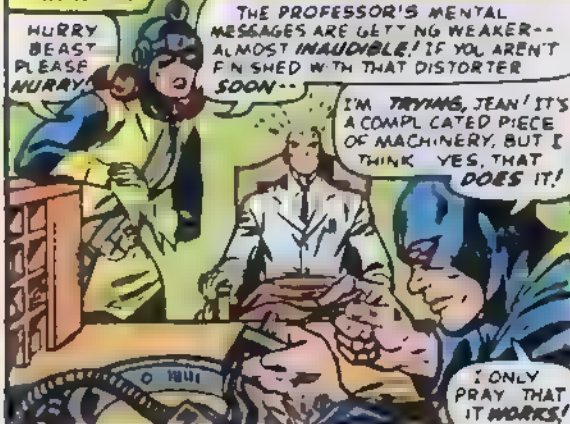
WHAT ABOUT THE PROF? WILL HE PULL THRU?

I...HOPE SO! HE'S GIVING ME DIRECTIONS FOR A BEAM DISTORTER--FOR THE BEAST TO BUILD!

THEN START RELAYING, GIRL! AND DON'T STOP TO BREATHE!



FEVERISHLY, DESPERATELY, WITH MANUAL SKILLS FAR BEYOND THOSE OF MOST NON-MUTANTS, A WORRIED HANK MCCOY LABORS AGAINST TIME ITSELF! AND, FINALLY...



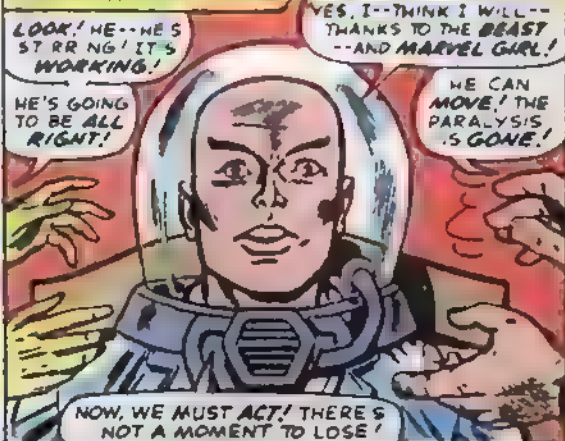
HURRY BEAST PLEASE MURRAY!

THE PROFESSOR'S MENTAL MESSAGES ARE GETTING WEAKER-- ALMOST INAUDIBLE! IF YOU AREN'T FINISHED WITH THAT DISTORTER SOON--

I'M TRYING, JEAN! IT'S A COMPLICATED PIECE OF MACHINERY, BUT I THINK YES, THAT DOES IT!

I ONLY PRAY THAT IT WORKS!

AS A TENSE SILENCE GRIPS THE X-MEN, THE DISTORTER-HELMET IS PLACED ON THE R LEADER'S HEAD, AND, ANXIOUS SECONDS LATER...



LOOK! HE-- HE'S STRONG! IT'S WORKING!

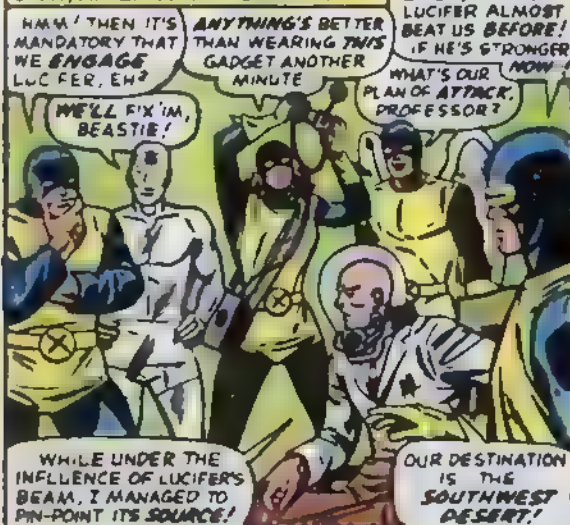
YES, I-- I THINK I WILL-- THANKS TO THE BEAST-- AND MARVEL GIRL!

WE CAN MOVE! THE PARALYSIS IS GONE!

HE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!

NOW, WE MUST ACT! THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE!

THEN, AFTER A FAST BRIEFING...



HMM! THEN IT'S MANDATORY THAT WE ENGAGE LUCIFER, EH?

ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN WEARING THIS GADGET ANOTHER MINUTE!

WE'LL FIX 'IM, BEASTIE!

QUET, JEAN! LUCIFER ALMOST BEAT US BEFORE! IF HE'S STRONGER...

WHAT'S OUR PLAN OF ATTACK, PROFESSOR?

WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF LUCIFER'S BEAM, I MANAGED TO PIN-POINT ITS SOURCE!

OUR DESTINATION IS THE SOUTHWEST DESERT!

AND SO...



AM I SLIDIN THESE CRATES DOWN TOO FAST FOR YOU JEAN?

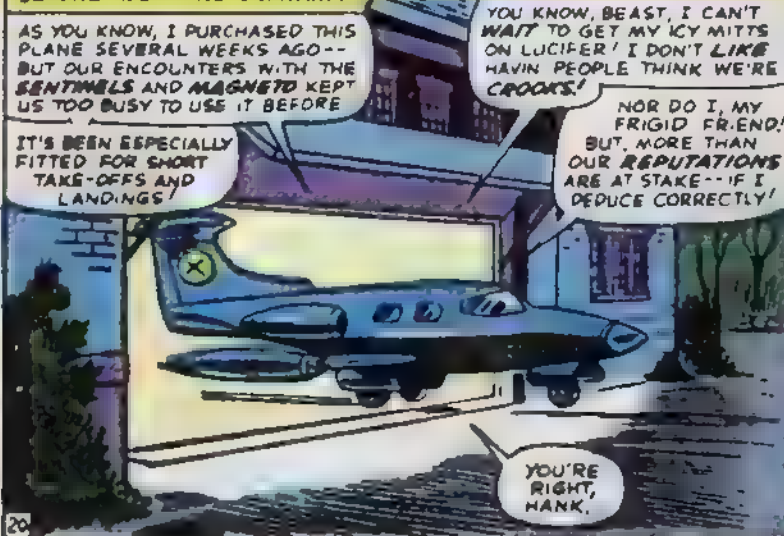
NO, BOBBY-- KEEP THEM COMING! HANK AND I CAN KEEP UP WITH YOU!

THE WAY SCOTT SNAPPED AT ME A WHILE AGO! HOW COULD I EVER HAVE THOUGHT HE MIGHT CARE FOR ME?

BEAST! YOU MAY START LOADING THE PLANE, NOW!

WITH ALL DELIBERATE ALACRITY, SIR!

MINUTES LATER, A SEEMINGLY SOLID WALL OF THE STately SCHOOL-BUILDING RISES--TO REVEAL A SLEEK PRIVATE JET, POISED MOMENTARILY BEFORE ROCKETING SKYWARD.



AS YOU KNOW, I PURCHASED THIS PLANE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO-- BUT OUR ENCOUNTERS WITH THE SENTINELS AND MAGNETO KEPT US TOO BUSY TO USE IT BEFORE.

YOU KNOW, BEAST, I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY KICKY MITTS ON LUCIFER! I DON'T LIKE HAVING PEOPLE THINK WE'RE CROOKS!

NOR DO I, MY FRIGID FRIEND! BUT, MORE THAN OUR REPUTATIONS ARE AT STAKE-- IF I DEDUCE CORRECTLY!

IT'S BEEN ESPECIALLY FITTED FOR SHORT TAKE-OFFS AND LANDINGS!

YOU'RE RIGHT, HANK.

FOR, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW THE PRECISE NATURE OF LUCIFER'S MENACE TO US



IT MAY WELL BE THAT WE SIX ARE THE EARTH'S SOLE HOPE FOR SURVIVAL!

NEXT ISSUE: THE STARTLING, SINISTER SECRET OF... DOMINUS!

WE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...







# MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS!

## GREATER, GROOVIER, GOOFIER GOODIES THAN EVER, GATHERED FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF MARVELDOM!

**HOW ABOUT THAT! MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS** is such a thunderous sensation that you've been clamoring for more of the same! Well, you know us! We're not gonna leave you faithful frantic ones crying in the streets, and so we're planning to make our former annual mag—**MARVEL TALES**—also a bi-monthly just like **MCIC**! We haven't set an on-sale date for it yet, but keep watching this column—and your newsstands—it won't be long now! No, no, don't embarrass us with profuse thanks—we're glad to do it—it's a pleasure—being big kids at heart, we love playing with glue pots and scissors and cutting up old mags and pasting them down again with tender loving care. And y'know something? We enjoy looking at those old neo-classics of a few years back ourselves! It's a blast to compare the stories and art with today's towering triumphs! Talk about nostalgia—wow!

**ITEM:** Remember us promising you a list of famous disc jockeys who are full fledged Marvelites? Some of you may have thought we were putting you on! Well, here's the living proof poster! Check the following list and see which playful platter spinners are in YOUR neck of the woods, and then—if you're really with it—drop 'im a congratulatory note as one bullpen buddy to another. They'll get a real kick out of hearing from a fellow Marvel madman, and you'll realize once again that we kidded them not! [By the way, if your favorite dj hasn't yet joined our ranks, a few front-end letters from some frantic fans will probably make 'im realize what he's missing. Anyway, it's the least we can do since mighty Marvel's taking over the whole chicken-scratchin' world! And now let us doff our hats as we reverently read the following names with rare and rapturous respect, in alphabetical order, natchy!]

PAUL DREW — WQX — Atlanta  
JERRY G — WYTC — Cleveland  
ARNE GINSBERG — WMEX — Boston  
RUSS KNOTT — WLT — Houston  
STEVE MCILEY — RPO — Honolulu  
PAT O'DAY — RJR — Seattle  
DICK PURTAN — WNRN — Detroit  
JOHNNY RABBITT — KSLX — St. Louis  
JOE REYNOLDS — WABW — Buffalo  
ART ROBERTS — WLS — Chicago  
RICK SHAW — WQAM — Miami  
GARY STEVENS — WMCA — New York

Welcome aboard, tiger! You're one of us now—and there's not a dry eye left in the bullpen!

**DIDJA KNOW?** The world famous movie writer-director **FEDERICO FELLINI** dropped in to visit the gang at the bullpen last Nov. 3rd! It was a big thrill for us Marvel madmen—and we hope the same goes for Signor Fellini! He really seems to dig our mags, and we spent a wonderful couple of hours showing him around and swapping stories! So the next time some one gives you a disidentical look when you mention being a Marvel Marcher, you might just casually mention the kind company you're in! Not to mention the countless collage clichés throbbing thru the world

who are forming Merry Marvel Campus Chapters faster than we can keep track of 'em!

**STRICTLY PERSONAL:** At last it can be told! The REAL NAME of admirable **ADAM AUSTIN**! Most of you newer readers won't recognize it, but those of you who remember us from the days of our former triumphs will instantly remember who he is—in fact some of you have already guessed his identity! Anyway, to and the space we'll bid farewell to **AA** and welcome gallant **GENE COLEMAN** to the fold! All his glory days did stuff years' westerns, war tales, and just about everything you can think of years ago for Marvel, and just between us, he's better today than ever!

**ITEM:** Don't dare miss the first guest appearance in months of your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man! He's costarring **DAREDEVIL** in a one-on-one beginning of March—and you'll stand up and cheer when you see the brilliant interpretation that zesty **JOHNNY RUMTA** gives to every body's favorite web-slinger! It's one of the high spots of an already sensation-packed comics season!

**THE WRAP-UP:** Some loyal Marvelites have expressed concern over the fact that although we were once tolerant of our competition, we now seem to be openly critical of them, and we feel we owe you a explanation for this definite change of policy. In a nutshell, the situation is this: As you know, Marvel has spent years trying to upgrade the art of comic magazines, for an art truly as every bit as much as the cinema, the legitimate stage, or any other form of creative expression. We don't resent competition; indeed, we welcome it! But we DO resent shabby, carelessly produced, badly written and drawn, scienceless **MUTATIONS** of Marvel mags, mutations which are casually packing quantity and which are produced for the sole purpose of making a fast buck in the very field which they themselves are helping to keep at the bottom of the artistic item pole. We have been bothered with negligent letters from readers who have bought issues of the various **B** and **E**chms now on sale and have been shocked at the undersized effort these opportunities have made to confuse the public into believing that their titles are the same as Marvel's. One such company has gone so far as to change its name and trademark so that the reader might think it **was** a Marvel publication. If these so-called competitors would expend an equal amount of creative effort on the **CONTENT** of their mags, we'd have no objection, but all they are doing is confusing the public and giving new ammunition to those who choose to downgrade comics. That's our position! And this is our promise to you, no matter what befalls, no matter how rocky the road ahead may be: your stuff here at the Marvel bullpen will never compromise with quality! Our stories, our art, our lettering, and our coloring will always be the best that money can obtain—the finest that dedicated craftsmen can produce. Though the newsstands grow ever more cluttered

with inferior imitations, the mighty Marvel magazines will still stand out like shining beacons guiding you to the finest read in entertainment! That is our promise! Our pledge, our credo! You've made us what we are today—you deserve nothing less! Nuff said!

### THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line Up of Some of the Marvelous Mags on the Right Now!

**FANTASTIC FOUR** #31 This one features the T. B. Movie Jargon and drama that you've ever seen him before. And you won't soon forget the Changing!

**SPIDER-MAN** #37 Once upon a Time There was a Hobbit. Behind that off beat title is one of Spider's greatest battles as a new mystery slowly unfolds.

**AVENGERS** #28 At last! The return of a different costume! A different name! Even a new and different villain! Woo!

**DAREDEVIL** #16 This is the one! The Man Without Fear battles your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man in a far-three-way! And adventure will never be the same!

**THOR** #128 We had to do it! We've had Bull-mating us—the might for months! But shee-oww! For stars while you've never seen his like. And when he meets Thor, it's a real one!

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Dear Stan,

"You must not reveal the incredible ending to any living soul! Remember, we'll be watching you." That message was lettered on the cover of X-MEN #17 - which was beautiful! Being sort of the daring type, I leaned over to a little old lady and whispered, "The villain at the end of the X-MEN story is Magneto!" No sooner had I uttered these words than a policeman walked briskly over to me and asked me to put my arms out. I did and he securely clamped a pair of handcuffs tightly on my wrists. I got free only by promising to personally buy him the next copy of X-MEN. This just goes to prove that when Marvel writes something, they mean it! The eyes of Marvel are everywhere!

Peter Gaspari, 1682 Royal Cres.  
London, Ont., Canada

Wow! Imagine, Pete—all this time we thought we were just kidding! Looks like we've created a Frankenstein! Dear Stan,

Since the X-MEN has been coming out monthly, I think that the artwork has improved. The X-Men fighting the Sentinels was wonderful - issue #18 was the best I've ever read. Its cover would attract anyone! In case you want to know who my favorite peacemaker is - he's Cyclops. About this trinket stuff - I like it. So much for that! Having the Marvel characters on the screen is just marvelous. Being a faithful reader of the X-MEN I will vote for them to be elected for this honor. That's about it - so long!

Jerry Rankin, 2974 Arlington Blvd.  
Indianapolis 18, Ind

'Bye, Jerr—see you around! (But, before he goes, we wish someone would clue us in on what that "trinket stuff" is that he likes! It's just our luck - someone finally likes something—and we can't figure out what he's talking about!)

Dear Stan,

Congratulations on X-MEN #17! I like your new corner cover logo which, added to the sanguine, monochromatic cover, made quite an impression. The story held a lot of promise since of Lodestone Lips is supposed to be on another planet with the Stranger. As much as I never could stand Magneto's gang, I do like Magneto and I hope he plays a single this time around. I enjoyed that beautiful four word capsule description of his character - "I'm a power!" I can't wait to see how Iceman saves the day. The fellas at the dorm think I'm ape over Marvel comics, but that's because some day I hope to be part of the comic field, and I figure studying the best of 'em is a good way to get the feel of the medium. We write to the men responsible for giving the characters life and vitality, not the characters who are merely the concrete expression of their creative genius, to men who know what the "adult" comic reader wants, who listen and act on readers' suggestions, who do not hide behind the front of "editor", men who are recognized personalities! An integral part of the Marvel magic is the fact that the mags are done as conversation between you hip, fun-loving, romantically-optimistic, roll-with-the-punches bunch of fellas, and us readers who like to see one ray of hope shining through the mushroom cloud which hangs over our future - (yes, Virginia, there will be a future)

— and who like to have someone honest and frank to talk to. Both the bullpen and the reader know that the mag is entertainment but that doesn't mean it should insult one's intelligence. The bullpen knows that the fans read as rebel from studying for that vital exam, or to recapture one small bit of their childhood happiness which the world snuffs out these days. And the readers know that the bullpen is out to make money (a noble ambition, keeping America strong through the practice of its foundation - capitalism), but both have fun doing what they do, and a pleasant symbiotic relationship is formed. Pardon the philosophy, gang, but I have my weak moments. Didn't say too much about the X-Men - what kinda letter of comment is this? Just keep your stuff coming for those of us who appreciate greatness.

Dick Glass, 11941 Univ. of Calif. at Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, Calif 93107

Wow! You may not have said too much about the X-MEN per se, but you sure did warm the cockles of our high-flivin' hearts, Dick! Many thanks from us stumbling, bumbling, fumbling madmen—your kind words were appreciated muchly.

Dear Stan,

In a letter to you concerning X-MEN #11, I began and ended with one word, "WOW!" Well, today I read X-MEN #16. I fear this will sound repetitious and strikingly unoriginal, but "WOW!" And you may double and triple that in spades (as well as hearts, diamonds and clubs) and still not adequately express how absolutely terrific this issue was! Man, what an ending! Personally I never suspected who the mysterious shadow so successfully spreading woe among the X-Men ranks belonged to, and I'm glad I didn't. I can't describe the utter shock I received when I turned page 19, and there stood the most evil, powerful villain Marvel has ever turned out - Magneto! It was, I suspect, the greatest single thrill I've ever received from a comic book. Stan, this was the best piece of work you've ever turned out - ever! Suspense, action, and seriousness, all attributes of this magnificent story. I doubt if the next few issues will reach this exceptional watermark, surprise value and all being shot, but if the quality of the writing is as good, well doggone, I'm not going to miss the next few months of X-adventure for anything. Caramba, no wonder the X-Men top all other Marvel characters with villains like the terrifyingly awesome Magneto constantly facing them - Valgame Dios, how can it miss? Guy Lillian III, 718 Spring Dr.  
Walnut Creek, Cal. 94598

Nom d'un chien, Guy! (Different language, but we just wanna show there's no flies on us!)

Dear Stan,

I think that X-MEN is the greatest mag since AMAZING ADULT FANTASY. The return of Magneto was the greatest thing since the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. Please don't bring him back in every issue but let him come back about every fifth issue. Have him fight the Avengers. Don't bring back the Toad because he acts like a pig. What happened to Scott and Jean's romance? If it hasn't disappeared, please bring it into the open so the Angel won't still act as if he's the only one who's good



enough for Jean. By this I mean that the Angel should find a new girlfriend, and not that the Angel is a sink. The pinup of the Angel on page 6 of issue #17 is one of the best pinups I've ever seen!

Dean Miner, 2102 Rosemary Lane  
Columbus, Ga.

Boy! One thing we'll say for you, Dean — you're a Marvel man who sure knows his own mind! You gave us a start, though, when you said that the Toad acts like a pig! Mebbe we oughtta come up with a Pig character and let him act like a toad! That'll really shake you up!

Dear Stan,

Having casually glanced through one of your Marvel comics to pass the time, I found (before reaching the end), that I was more interested than I thought I would be. Having previous experience of American comics, I thought it would be drivel, but, astonishingly enough, it turned out to be quite entertaining. My reference is to X-MEN and SGT. FURY — they are quite good. Thank you.

Mr. F. R. Chase, #1 Nelson Crescent, Horndean nr. Portsmouth, Hampshire, England

You're welcome, F.R. Glad you found our drivel "quite entertaining." Now that you've discovered this little serendipity, we hope you'll stay with us for a while — but let's try not to get too emotional about the whole thing, wot?



Dear Stan,

Wah-hoo on X-MEN #17! Three cheers! Oh rapture! Rejoice, oh Marvelites, and let the rafters ring — Magneto is back! That glorious last page! His regal stance commanded attention, the power-mad eyes probing from behind the unique mask — this was truly a fitting return for such a villain. Actually, any true Marvelite would have had at least a hunch as to who it was earlier. The Late-Show dialogue (stress on power), a metal battle-axe mysteriously flinging itself at the Angel, page 10 showing funny-looking vibration lines around the mechanical mental-wave distorter, and the red costume and purple gloves all struck a familiar note. Also, the X-Men instantly recognized the villain. Lastly, Magneto was long overdue for his reincarnation: I'm not going to go into about how superb the artwork was or how terrific the plot was and all that — I'll leave that for someone else to say. But how come Iceman didn't revert back to his normal self once unconscious? Well, you guys must have a few hundred other letters to read, so till Irving Forbush defects to Brand Echh, may the hoary hosts of Hoggoth keep your typewriter clacking!

Nick Francesco, 180 Lincoln Ave.  
Rochester, N. Y. 14611

If it's all the same to you, Nick, we'd rather depend on our ol' pal, Dave the repairman! He's easier to call when something goes wrong than Hoggoth is! (Which is our own inept way of trying to wiggle out of the fact that we don't know why Iceman didn't revert back to his normal form while unconscious! Come to think of, we never said that he *did* revert under such conditions, did we?)

Dear Stan,

Just to set things straight, I am a true Marvelite! I joined the M.M.M.S., I buy all your great mags, and I even invite Irving Forbush to dinner once in a while. Now, to get down to brass tacks. This is mainly a letter of complaint! After all, the top comics group can take some constructive criticism even if it hurts. First off, I'd like to bring up the fact that your printing remains poor. (Not the lettering — the printing process itself.) Even your great artists can't help that, so how about it? Next, why don't you make up your mind who's going to draw what permanently! I also suggest you stop beating around the bush (FORbush?) on your letters pages. You continue to name your competitor as Brand X or Brand Echh. What's the matter — are you afraid? It won't hurt! I'd like the chance to compare your mags to theirs. The smaller companies do it. The reason why I sent this to the X-Men is that I have one question. When Professor

X removed the giant crystal rock it automatically released the downed Sentinel, who most assuredly went on his merry way. Now I could give an explanation as to how Professor X stopped this catastrophe, but I'll let you do it! And don't offer me a no-prize for minel As you slowly slip into a state of shock and begin to cry, remember, I still love ya!

Frank F. Brunner, 1395 Greene Ave.  
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11237

We're glad *somebody* does, Frankie! Now, we'll try to answer your little beef—the Sentinel's orders were to capture Dr. Trask (or whatever his name was) but, by the time the crystal was removed, Trask was already gone, so the swingin' Sentie, being merely an android-robot, and having no further orders is, for all we know, still sitting there! As for why we don't name Brand Echh, it's because we have more than one competitor—so Brand Echh stands for all of 'em! You pays yer money and you takes yer choice! Besides, we *did* name 'em—who do you think made up the appellation "Brand Echh"? (Nyahh!)

Dear Stan,

My gosh, what action, what suspense, what a weird cover, what a smash ending!! Natch, I'm talking about X-MEN #17! All through that fast-moving story I was trying to think of who could make things float and who the X-Men already knew. I never thought of the man with the magnetic personality. I mean, I thought he was gone for good because the Stranger said they wouldn't return. Well, he was wrong! What I've got to see next is how the world's biggest braggart got away. I should have guessed who he was when he said "I am power!" but I turned the page so quickly that I never had a chance to think! The defeat of the X-Men and the last page were the most marvel-ous parts of the book. And did you catch the Marvel first on page one? You used a sentence without an exclamation mark! (when Jean was speaking to herself). Finally, I'd like to offer a suggestion. In your great new MARVEL COLLECTORS ITEM CLASSICS the best thing you could have would be an "a-thon"—like an F.F.-a-thon, an X-Men-a-thon, or a Thor-a-thon. Long live Marvel!

Doug Jones, 3 Brookwood St.  
E. Orange, N. J. 07107

And long live all you merry Marvelites! Perhaps we'll take a leaf from your book one day, Doug, and have us a fan-a-thon!

Dear Stan,

As I was reading a Marvel comic the other day I suddenly realized that our Marvel heroes would make the greatest baseball team ever! Here's the line-up: First base — Mr. Fantastic, for his stretching ability! Second base — Daredevil, as his radar sense could sense the ball! Third base — the Torch, because who else could handle the "hot corner" better! Shortstop — Spider-Man, who could snag the ball with his web! Right field — the Hulk, who can jump any height to catch the ball! Left field — Iron Man, who could use his transistors to grab the ball while in the air! Center field — the Angel, who is better equipped to catch flies than anyone! Pitcher — Thor, who has had so much practice throwing his hammer! Catcher — the Thing, who can stop anything! Manager — Professor X, the greatest brain! Water boy — Sub-Mariner! (who else!) Cheerleaders — Sue Storm, Marvel Girl and Aunt May! And, last but not least, the relief pitchers — the Bullpen Gang!

Gary Colabuno, 925 Westshire Drive  
Joliet, Ill.

That's a great line-up Gary—but poor Irving Forbush is cryin' his eyes out over there in the corner! He had his heart set on being bat boy!

**NEXT ISH:** More startling secrets of Lucifer and the dread danger he really portends, plus a zillion other loose ends, mixed together in a mad melange of miraculous mayhem as only your batty bullpen can dream it up! So, if you've finished reading all your Brand Echhs, and you've nothing better to do, why not latch onto a copy of X-MEN #21—you may possibly find it somewhat rewarding! (Note: You've just been subjected to a sneaky Stan Lee subliminal test, to see whether the ol' soft-sell will grab you as much as our usual hit-'em-on-the-head-hard type of copy! So don't let us down, tiger!)



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C. L. M., Philadelphia, Pa.

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R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.

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J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

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Pat Browning wanted to escape from her dull typing job to something creative. Soon after studying with us, she was promoted to full-time artist with the same firm—at much more money.

With the right training, Wanda Pickulski gave up her typing job

to become fashion artist for a local department store.

Eric Ericson worked in a garage while he studied art at night. Today he is a successful artist, earns seven times as much, and is building a new home for his family.

Long before Albert Dorne started looking for people who like to draw, they came to him for advice and help. Since he alone could help only a few of these people, he called together America's most successful artists—men like Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Stevan Dohanos and Al Parker.

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He said: "All over America, there are people who like to draw, who could be turned into good artists. Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years? I'm suggesting a new kind

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Jon Whitcomb	Ben Stahl
Al Parker	Robert Fawcett
Stevan Dohanos	Austin Briggs
George Giusti	Harold Von Schmidt
Peter Helck	Albert Dorne

of school—a home-study art school that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live."

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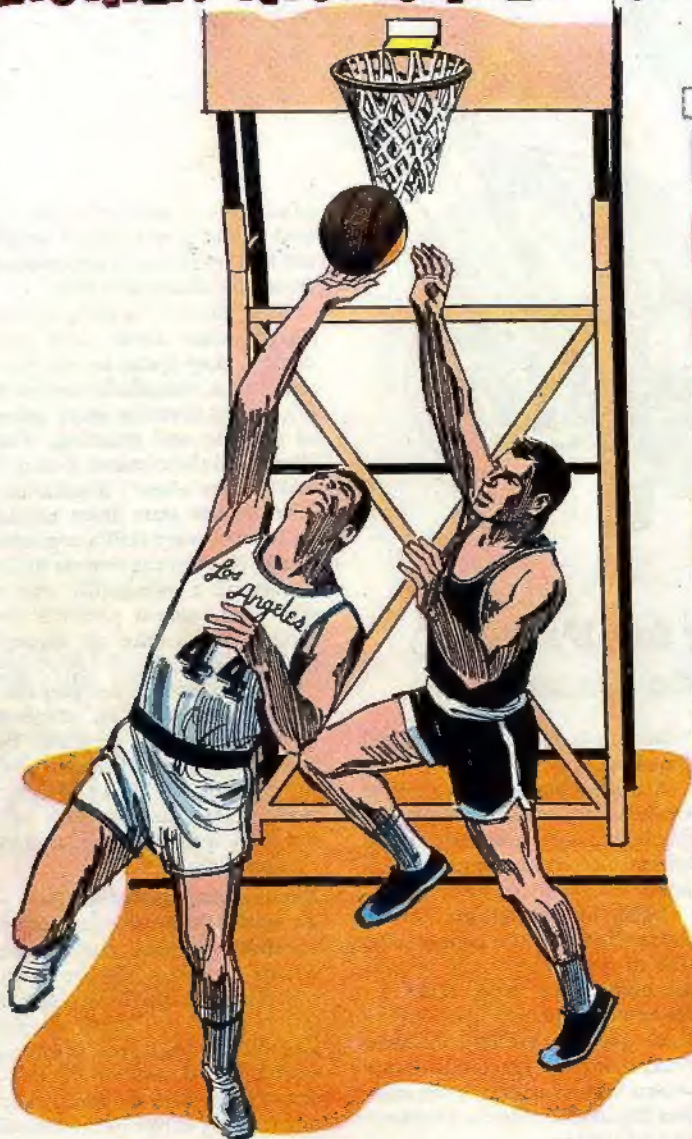
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# ANOTHER TWO-POINTER FOR JERRY WEST!



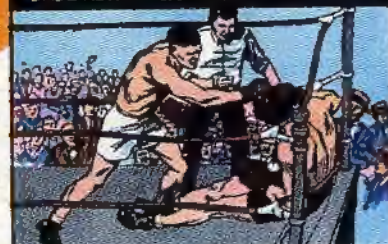
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